

October 17, 2019

**CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED AS SEMIFINALISTS
FOR 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

Athens, Georgia — On September 11, 2019, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of Semifinalists in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The following Clarke Central High School students were named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist:

- Theron Camp
- Elena Gilbertson Hall
- Everett Vereen

“I commend our students on being recognized for academic excellence by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students dedicate themselves to being successful – in and out of the classroom,” states Dr. Swade Huff, Principal of Clarke Central High School.

Around 1.5 million juniors in more than approximately 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$31 million to be offered next spring.

“These Clarke Central High students excel not only in their coursework, but as school leaders, community volunteers, and participants in extracurricular activities. Congratulations to these outstanding student scholars, as well as their parents and teachers, for this tremendous accomplishment,” said Dr. Demond Means, Superintendent.

The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and his or her high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, including information about the applicant’s academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, employment, and awards received.

About the Clarke County School District

At the Clarke County School District, we believe in tomorrow. We believe that by preparing students for the new and broadening opportunities ahead, we are strengthening our community. Our passionate faculty and staff work tirelessly to help ensure our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We are dedicated. We are committed. We work hard to be better every day.

The CCSD has 21 schools and more than 13,000 students. We have 2,288 days to make a difference that will last a lifetime. But we do not just count the days—we make the days count.

For more information about the Clarke County School District, please visit www.clarke.k12.ga.us.

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About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalmerit.org>.

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Media Contact

Beth Moore

Communications Manager

Clarke County School District | clarke.k12.ga.us

beth.moore@clarke.k12.ga.us

P: 706-546-7721 / Ext. 20703

Images

Not pictured



Elena Gilbertson-Hall



Everett Vereen

Theron Camp