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Seven CVUSD Students Named Semifinalists in National Merit Scholarship Competition

Out of 1.6 million entrants, one Chino Hills High School and six Ayala High School seniors are among 16,000 semifinalists competing for a 2020 National Merit Scholarship.

Chino, CA – Seven Chino Valley Unified School District high school seniors have been recognized as semifinalists in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship competition. Representing Ayala High School are Oishee Das, Tiffany Liu, Daniel Moon, Asna Tabassum, Anushka Thakker and William Zhang with Janice Wu representing Chino Hills High School. Consideration for the program is based on the overall score a student receives on their PSAT/NMSQT exam. Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis and are among the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Approximately 16,000 students enrolled at 21,000 high schools nationwide have been selected as semifinalists. From this pool, an estimated 15,000 will be elected as National Merit Scholarship Finalists and will compete for 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$31 million. Scholarships will be used to pay for costs associated with college enrollment.

To become a Finalist, each Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. In addition to having an outstanding academic record, a Semifinalist must be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn an SAT or ACT score that confirms the student's earlier performance on the qualifying PSAT/NMSQT exam.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2020 will be announced in four nationwide news releases between April and July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 345,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title since the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) inception in 1955. The NMSC is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on recognizing academically talented students while encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education.

About Chino Valley Unified School District:

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 27,000 students across 35 schools within the Chino Valley area. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools, students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit www.chino.k12.ca.us.

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