



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego, California 92128-3406 ■ www.powayusd.com

Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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CONTACT: Christine Paik, Chief Communications Officer

PHONE: (858) 521-2707 **EMAIL:** cpaik@powayusd.com

More Poway Unified Students Named 2021 National Merit Scholarship Winners

Seven students awarded \$2,500 for achievements, will go toward higher education

(Evanston, Illinois) – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced today the winners of the 2021 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship. Poway Unified School District is pleased to share that seven students were named as recipients.



Zahir Ahmed: Del Norte High School (4S Ranch)

Probable Career Field: Academia

Lindsay Wright: Del Norte High School (4S Ranch)

Probable Career Field: Aerospace Engineering

Cynthia Zhang: Del Norte High School (4S Ranch)

Probable Career Field: Undecided

Dhruv Kumar: Rancho Bernardo High School (Rancho Bernardo)

Probable Career Field: Computer Science

Lauren Pickard: Rancho Bernardo High School (Rancho Bernardo)

Probable Career Field: Biomedical Engineering

Heidi Lau: Westview High School (Torrey Highlands)

Probable Career Field: Computer Science

Michael Wu: Westview High School (Torrey Highlands)

Probable Career Field: Computer Science

Each of these students will receive \$2,500 from NMSC, to go toward any accredited U.S. college or university. A committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors selected each PUSD student from a candidate pool of approximately 16,000 students nationwide. They considered metrics such as academic record, preliminary standardized test scores, community leadership contributions, an essay, and a recommendation written by a high school official.

NMSC will name the recipients of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards on June 2 and July 12, 2021. By the conclusion of this year's competition, about 7,500 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$30 million.

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