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PRESS RELEASE

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Ninety-seven (97) Southern Baptist High School Seniors Recognized for Scholarship and Musical Achievements in National Contests \$10,500 in Scholarships Awarded to Students

Three hundred fifty-five (355) high school seniors from the Class of 2020, enrolled in 29 member schools of the **National Alliance of Christian Schools (NACS)**, formerly *Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools*, were nominated to compete in a national awards program for their outstanding scholarship and/or musical achievements (see attached lists). Out of the 97 semifinalists selected from the field, 16 share the spotlight as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or Finalist award winners, dividing \$9,500 in college grants: \$2,150 to each 1st place winner, \$1,100 to each 2nd place winner, \$750 to each 3rd place winner, and \$250 to each Finalist.

Each fall, NACS member schools nominate candidates in two groups; scholars and musicians. Nominees must then complete an application process to compete for the scholarships. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements become finalists. In the spring, a panel of adjudicators chooses the winners in each of the two categories.

[Joshua Expeditions Outstanding NACS Scholars Awards Program](#) awards one (1) 1st place winner \$2,150, one (1) second place winner \$1,100, one (1) 3rd place winner \$750, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students from four (4) states were selected as 2020 scholarship winners from a field of 89 scholar semifinalists. To compete for the award, seniors must:

- score at least a 1300 on SAT (combined critical reading and math score) or 28 on ACT.
- have at least a 3.5 non-weighted cumulative GPA.
- have the testimony of their faculty to their good character, service and leadership within their schools, churches and communities.

[Joshua Expeditions Outstanding NACS Musicians Awards Program](#) awards one (1) 1st place winner \$2,150, one (1) second place winner \$1,100, one (1) 3rd place winner \$750, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students from four (4) states were selected as 2020 scholarship winners from a field of eight (8) musician semifinalists. To compete for the award, seniors must

- have at least a 3.0 non-weighted cumulative GPA.
- be highly involved in music and show a superior level of vocal or instrumental skill.
- demonstrate an active faith in Christ.
- audition by digital files.
- receive recommendations from music directors and teachers indicating good character, service and leadership within their schools, churches and communities.

The purpose of the *Joshua Expeditions Outstanding NACS Scholars & Musicians Awards Program* is to discover and recognize students in our Southern Baptist Christian schools across the nation with exemplary expertise and accomplishments in scholastics or music, Christian character and service to others. The extraordinary level of achievement, character and leadership evidenced by this year's participants demonstrates that our schools are producing outstanding results, young men and women of excellence who will be the salt and light that the Lord Jesus Christ expects and requires to lead his Kingdom. NACS maintains a database of over 700 Christian schools affiliated with Southern Baptist churches, associations or conventions around the nation, over 200 of which have high schools.

The Outstanding NACS Scholars and Musicians Awards Program is funded by a generous grant from [Joshua Expeditions](#), a non-profit Christian student travel company that offers global educational and mission trips for high school students from across the nation. Through their generous commitment, Joshua Expeditions has provided scholarship funding for NACS member school students throughout the United States to receive help with the cost of higher education.

For more information about the NACS scholarship program, e-mail drwscott@nacschools.org

2020 Award Winners

1st Place Scholar Winner (\$2,150)

Gabrielle Kostecki - Cypress Christian School (*Independent*) Houston, TX

1st Place Musician Winner (\$2,150)

Amanda Carambat - Parkview Baptist School (*Parkview Baptist Church*), Baton Rouge, LA

2nd Place Scholar Winner (\$1,100)

Austin Kemp - The First Academy (*First Baptist Church of Orlando*) Orlando, FL

2nd Place Musician Winner (\$1,100)

Amond Frederick - First Baptist Christian Academy (*First Baptist Church Pasadena*) Pasadena, TX

3rd Place Scholar Winner (\$750)

Rachael Beaird - Southwest Florida Christian Academy (*McGregor Baptist Church*) Fort Myers, FL

3rd Place Musician Winner (\$750)

Kaitlyn Brock - Calvary Christian High School (*Calvary Baptist Church*) Clearwater, FL

Scholar Finalists (\$250)

(in rank order)

Dustin Luu - First Baptist Academy (*First Baptist Church Naples*) Naples, FL

Eunjin Choi - Eagles Landing Christian Academy (*Eagles Landing First Baptist Church*) McDonough, GA

Luke Savage - Prestonwood Christian Academy (*Prestonwood Baptist Church*) Plano, TX

Eli Bishop - Whitesburg Christian Academy (*Whitesburg Baptist Church*) Huntsville, AL

Joshua Yough - Cypress Christian School (*Independent*) Houston, TX

Musician Finalists (\$250)

(in rank order)

Garrett Keegan - Calvary Day School (*Calvary Baptist Church*) Winston Salem, NC

Samantha Seal - Prestonwood Christian Academy (*Prestonwood Baptist Church*) Plano, TX

Trevor Cupit - Parkview Baptist School (*Parkview Baptist Church*) Baton Rouge, LA

Hannah Baker - Southcrest Christian School (*Southcrest Baptist Church*) Lubbock, TX

Sam Boger - Calvary Day School (*Calvary Baptist Church*) Winston Salem, NC