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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Collin Van Cuyk Receives Prestigious National Merit Scholarship

Kimberly, Wis. – June 12, 2019 – Collin Van Cuyk, a recent [Kimberly High School \(KHS\)](#) graduate, is among the [National Merit Scholarship Corporation's \(NMSC\)](#) recently announced National Merit College-sponsored Scholarship winners. He was awarded the National Merit University of Texas at Dallas Scholarship.

“I didn't expect to find myself here, but people have always told me that hard work would pay off in ways that I maybe didn't expect,” said Collin Van Cuyk. “I just would want to extend my thanks to teachers and family who pushed me to go further throughout my education.”

Collin, who recently graduated from KHS, was active in the National Honor Society and the tennis team. He was extremely involved with the band



program at KHS, including playing saxophone and clarinet in jazz band, the Wespenmusikanten Polka band and brass band. He also served as a student director for the band. He has helped in the theatre program's stage crew, pit orchestra and with their lights/sounds. In his early years of high school, he also participated in DECA and worked on the yearbook. Outside of school, Van Cuyk works at Culver's, where he is a manager in training.

This year, 173 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 95 private and 78 public institutions located in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

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The Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution.

“I am excited to study actuarial science next year at the University of Texas at Dallas on a very generous scholarship package for National Merit Finalists,” said Van Cuyk. “I would like to thank them as well for supporting my continued education!”

National Merit Finalists are appraised on a substantial amount of information submitted by both the Finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the Finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

This year’s National Merit Scholarship Program began in 2017 when over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the nation’s high school seniors, were named Semifinalists on a state-representational basis.

Only these 16,000 Semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition. From the Semifinalist group, some 15,000 students met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. By the conclusion of the 2019 program, about 7,600 Finalists will have earned the “Merit Scholar” title and received a total of over \$31 million in college scholarships.

About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

NMSC is a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance. It was founded in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors. These sponsors join NMSC in

its efforts to enhance educational opportunities for America's scholastically talented youth and to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.

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