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September 29, 2016

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**2017 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist**

Garden City High School senior Eileen Farrell has been named a 2017 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Eileen is pictured here with guidance counselor Jim Malone and Principal Nanine McLaughlin.

When asked what words of encouragement she would offer to our younger students hoping to achieve similar distinctions, Eileen explained, “Just thinking about doing well will open up new opportunities for you.” How about when you are faced with a setback? “Each individual issue doesn’t really matter in the grand scheme of things. You need to step back a bit and get a sense of perspective.” Is there anything that can discourage you? “The clock. I can get discouraged when the clock is ticking and I have a lot to do. Also, if I don’t understand something, I’ll feel pressure to put in more time. I’ll spend quiet time by myself trying different strategies to figure it out. I’ll check the web, ask friends, or if I still can’t get it, I’ll schedule extra help with my teacher.” Excellent advice, Eileen!

Eileen is Garden City High School’s 21<sup>st</sup> semifinalist named in the competition since 2009. Ninety percent of all semifinalists nationwide advance to the finalist level based on

fulfilling several more requirements. All Garden City High School's previous semifinalists were moved to finalist status.

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2017. Every finalist will compete for 2,500 scholarship awards of \$2,500. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships will be provided, and approximately 190 colleges and universities are expected to finance 4,000 awards to recipients who choose to attend the sponsor institution.