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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**Three GCHS Seniors named 2018 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**

Congratulations to three Garden City High School seniors for being selected as 2018 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. Pictured here are (front row, left to right) Brandon Gong, Jack McKernan, and Julia Choi with (back row, left to right) Principal Nanine McLaughlin, and the students' guidance counselors Karen Whiston, Patrick Doyle, and Jeanne Kennedy. The students qualified as National Semifinalists by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The selected 2018 Semifinalists represent less than one percent of all U.S. high school seniors, and are members of the highest qualifying entrants from each state.

To move on to being a Finalist, the students must complete and submit a detailed scholarship application which includes further evidence of outstanding academic achievement, involvement in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

Of the 16,000 2018 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to move on to be named Finalists, ultimately competing for three types of scholarships awarded in the spring of 2018. Every finalist will have the opportunity to 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.

If Brandon, Jack, and Julia move on to being named 2018 Finalists, they will collectively bring the total number National Merit Scholarship Finalists for Garden City High School to 29 since 2009.

Best wishes to these outstanding seniors as they move forward in the competition!