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NEWS RELEASE
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Will Wegner Receives Prestigious National Merit Scholarship

Kimberly, Wis. – May 15, 2017 – Will Wegner, a senior at Kimberly High School (KHS), is among the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) recently announced National Merit $2500 Scholarship winners. The Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

"I am extremely honored to have been selected as a National Merit Finalist, and to have received a National Merit Scholarship," said Will Wegner. "I am not alone in this achievement, however; my recognition comes as a result of endless encouragement by my family and consistent support from my school, teachers and advisors."

Will is the valedictorian of his class. He is an active theatrical and musical performer at KHS. His talents have earned him prestigious musical opportunities, including membership on the Lawrence Music Academy Wind Ensemble and an invitation to play with Macy's Great American Marching Band during their famous Thanksgiving Day parade. Will has been recognized as a National AP Scholar for his academic accomplishments.

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He was awarded the National Merit Scholarship underwritten by the Mead Witter Foundation, Inc. This private charitable foundation is funded through the Mead family of Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

National Merit $2500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

These Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised 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.

NMSC finances most of these single-payment National Merit $2500 Scholarships. Corporations and company foundations that sponsor awards through NMSC also help underwrite these scholarships with grants they provide in lieu of paying administrative fees. Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

This year's National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2015 when over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools took the 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 2017 program, about 7,500 Finalists will have earned the "Merit Scholar" title and received a total of over $32 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 specifically to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 420 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC's goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and encouraging academic excellence at all levels of education.

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.