



Tuesday, April 13, 2021

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **One Hundred Two (102) Southern Baptist High School Seniors Recognized for Scholarship and Musical Achievements in National Contests \$10,500 in Scholarships Awarded to Students**

Three hundred sixty-seven (367) high school seniors from the Class of 2021, enrolled in 30 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 102 semifinalists selected from the field, 16 share the spotlight as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Finalist award winners, dividing \$9,500 in college grants: \$2,150 to each 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, \$1,100 to each 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, \$750 to each 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 1<sup>st</sup> place winner \$2,150, one (1) second place winner \$1,100, one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner \$750, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students from five (5) states were selected as 2021 scholarship winners from a field of 85 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) 1<sup>st</sup> place winner \$2,150, one (1) second place winner \$1,100, one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner \$750, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students from four (4) states were selected as 2021 scholarship winners from a field of 17 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](mailto:drwscott@nacschools.org)

## **2021 Award Winners**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$2,150)**

***Immanuel Carmouche*** - First Baptist Christian Academy (*First Baptist Church*) Pasadena, TX

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$2,150)**

***Thomas Chappell*** - Calvary Christian High School (*Calvary Baptist Church*) Clearwater, FL

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$1,100)**

***Ishwania Christopher*** - Prestonwood Christian Academy (*Prestonwood Baptist Church*) Plano, TX

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$1,100)**

***Jared Diggs*** - Hyde Park High School (*Hyde Park Baptist Church*) Austin, TX

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$750)**

***Caroline Seeling*** - Rocky Bayou Christian School (*Northwest FL Christian Education Association*) Niceville, FL

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$750)**

***Lauren Cyr*** - Carmel Christian School (*Carmel Baptist Church*) Matthews, NC

### **Scholar Finalists (\$250)**

*(in rank order)*

***Noah Weitzel*** - North Raleigh Christian Academy (*Independent*) Raleigh, NC

***Matthew Conner*** - Grace Christian Academy (*Grace Baptist Church*) Knoxville, TN

***Brynn Holbrook*** - Whitesburg Christian Academy (*Whitesburg Baptist Church*) Huntsville, AL

***Ashlyn Dapper*** - Sherwood Christian Academy (*Sherwood Baptist Church*) Albany, GA

***Jackson Hockenberry*** - The First Academy (*First Baptist Church of Orlando*) Orlando, FL

### **Musician Finalists (\$250)**

*(in rank order)*

***Matthew Conner*** - Grace Christian Academy (*Grace Baptist Church*) Knoxville, TN

***Maddie Athearn*** - Rocky Bayou Christian School (*Northwest FL Christian Education Association*) Niceville, FL

***Benjamin Englund*** - The First Academy (*First Baptist Church of Orlando*) Orlando, FL

***Richard Vogel*** - Indian Rocks Christian School (*First Baptist Church Indian Rocks*) Largo, FL

***Kinsey Campbell*** - The First Academy (*First Baptist Church of Orlando*) Orlando, FL