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SCHOOL WINNERS

Several local teens were recently named semifinalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 16,000 high school seniors nationwide were named semifinalists and advance to the finalist level of competition. More than half of those named finalists will win scholarships.

National Merit Semifinalists

- Everett: Kyra Mohn (Everett)
 - Mill Creek: Hye Cho (Henry M. Jackson)
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Kyra Mohn



Hye Cho

Two of those teens are from Everett Public Schools!

As a result, they have each earned the right to remain in the running for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$35 million. Sometime next spring Mohn and Cho will learn whether they are among an even rarer tier of national high school scholars known as *National Merit Scholar Finalists*.

About 1,600 high-scoring participants in each year's National Achievement® Scholarship Program are designated Semifinalists. To ensure that academically talented Black American students throughout the nation are included in the pool, Semifinalists are named on a regional representation basis. Semifinalists are the highest-scoring program participants in the states that constitute each region. Application materials are sent to Semifinalists through their high schools. Before being considered for a National Achievement Scholarship, a Semifinalist must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and other requirements explained in the information provided to each Semifinalist.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of national graduates.

To become a *Finalist*, the *Semifinalist* and high school submit a detailed scholarship application. The application includes information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards.

A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic high school record, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.