National Merit® Corporate Scholarships

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Now is the time
to plan for the future of your organization
by investing in America’s prime resource—
academically talented students.

For more than 60 years, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation has been the leader in identifying scholastically talented young women and men and supporting their educational goals. Corporate America has been our partner in this endeavor from the beginning. We invite you to join our distinguished group of scholarship sponsors. Your investment today in our nation’s intellectual talent will produce dividends for your company in the form of future leaders and innovators.
“Merit Scholar®”
is synonymous
with scholastic excellence

Now is the time
to connect your organization with the
most prestigious, academic honor for
U.S. high school students.

These academic champions fulfill their potential by excelling in college. Many go on to earn advanced degrees and become leaders who make important contributions to their fields, confirming a continuing pattern of high academic achievement and lofty career goals.
The support of sponsor organizations increases dramatically the number of scholarships NMSC can award to students with great potential to succeed—the nation’s future leaders.
Lisa J. Randall, was a recipient of a National Merit Scholarship sponsored by NewMarket Corporation (formerly Ethyl Corporation) in 1980. Now a Professor of Theoretical Physics at Harvard University, Dr. Randall has worked on and made fundamental contributions to a wide variety of models and theories. She has written four books, two on the New York Times 100 notable books list.

Intellectual ability needs to be nurtured. For 1.6 million students in 22,000 U.S. high schools, the National Merit Program is the vehicle that transports academic talent to the spotlight. About 15,000 outstanding students reach the Finalist level in the competition each year. Unfortunately, only about half of these worthy candidates receive full recognition and financial assistance of a Merit Scholarship® award. By sponsoring scholarships for Finalists with qualifications of interest, your organization can improve those odds.
"The National Merit Scholarship Program was created more than 50 years ago in response to concerns that the United States wasn’t producing enough scientists and engineers to compete with the rest of the world. This concern is as valid now as it was back then, and I believe that the work the program does to foster academic excellence is more important than ever.

—William H. (Bill) Gates, Co-founder and former Chairman, Microsoft Corporation; Co-chair and Trustee, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mr. Gates won a National Merit Scholarship sponsored by Boeing Corporation in 1973. He is actively involved in global health and education initiatives through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Pamela Thomas-Graham, who won a National Merit Scholarship in 1981, became one of the most influential women in American business at age 32 when she was named the first black woman partner at McKinsey & Company. Ms. Thomas-Graham served as the President and CEO of CNBC.com from 2001–2005 and as a Group President at Liz Claiborne Inc. from 2005–2010. At present, she is a senior executive at Credit Suisse.

1966 National Merit Scholarship winner, Thomas R. Cech, was awarded the Nobel prize in Chemistry in 1989 for the discovery of the catalytic properties of RNA. Dr. Cech is the former President of Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a Distinguished Professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He was elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences in 1987 and in 1995 he received the National Medal of Science.
Whether for children of your employees, students with college major or career aspirations that you want to encourage, or outstanding students in particular geographic areas, you will be establishing relationships for the future.
Mr. Thomas J. Engibous, Chairman of Texas Instruments Incorporated from 1998–2008, presides over an awards ceremony honoring recipients of the company’s Merit Scholarship® awards. He is assisted by Mrs. Sally Junkins, widow of former Chairman, President and CEO, Jerry Junkins. Each year Texas Instruments honors Mr. Junkins’s memory by underwriting Merit Scholarship awards for children of employees.

“I enjoy this luncheon because it’s inspiring to me for many reasons…. The youth in this room are future leaders of society and our world. And I hope some of you might even become leaders of Texas Instruments some day.”

—Thomas Engibous, Retired Chairman, Texas Instruments

Mr. Paulo Costa, President and CEO of Novartis Corporation from 1999–2008, talked with Scholars and their parents during a luncheon hosted by the company. Sponsor organizations are connected with the scholarship recipients in several ways. Through scholar recognition, award presentation, and scholarship renewal, sponsors can build strong relationships with their Scholars.

“It’s a great pleasure for me to be able to have the company help you with your education. I know your parents are very proud of you. I hope you enjoy your first year at college and have fun.”

—Paulo Costa, former President and CEO, Novartis Corporation
In 1955, the Chicago News endorsed the newly established National Merit Program’s invitation to Corporate America to sponsor scholarships for the most outstanding students:

“It makes sense for business and industry, especially, to give more for the education of young Americans. It is an investment in future business leadership and technical skill that seems as prudent as the expenditure of other millions for research in raw materials, manufacturing methods and markets.”

The wisdom of investing in America’s academic talent is just as valid and important today as it was 60 years ago. Contact us today about sponsorship and make a wise investment by supporting our country’s future leaders. Now is the time.
Benefits of Sponsorship

- Associate your organization with the highest academic honor a high school student can attain in the U.S.—a National Merit® Scholarship
- Invest in the future workforce by encouraging the nation’s academically talented students to pursue their educational goals
- Establish ongoing relationships with promising young women and men
- Identify potential candidates for internships and employment
- Goodwill/Philanthropy
- Foster loyalty and improve morale among employees
- NMSC handles all administrative aspects of your scholarship program
- All funds provided by sponsors are used exclusively for scholarships and are 100% tax-deductible contributions
Options include:

- Candidate qualifications that match sponsor interests
  - Children of employees
  - Students with certain major or career interest
  - Residents of areas/communities
- Scholarship amounts
- Number of awards
- Scholarship names

Cost of sponsorship:

- Sponsor only pays for scholarship amounts
- No administrative fees
  - In lieu of administrative fees, sponsors contribute a nominal grant per scholarship that helps underwrite additional scholarships
- No additional costs
Services for Corporate Sponsors

• Assistance with Scholarship Program materials and publicity

• Identification of candidates and collection of applications

• Selection and notification of scholarship winners

• Assistance with Scholar announcements

• Provide Certificates for presentation to Scholarship winners

• Distribution of scholarship payments to winners

• Monitor and report on Scholars pursuing their undergraduate degrees
Established in 1955, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to NMSC are tax deductible by the donor. Each year, NMSC conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships that is open to all U.S. high school students who meet entry requirements. NMSC conducted the National Achievement® Scholarship Program, a competition for Black American high school students, from 1965 to 2015.

NMSC’s goals have remained constant:
- to identify and honor academically talented U.S. high school students;
- to stimulate increased support for their education; and
- to provide efficient and effective scholarship program management for organizations that wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships.

Committed to maintaining the highest standards, NMSC has earned a reputation for quality and integrity.

Since its founding, NMSC has recognized over 3 million students and provided more than 423,000 scholarships worth $1.7 billion. The honors awarded by NMSC to exceptional students are viewed as definitive marks of excellence. Recipients of Merit Scholarship® awards, Achievement Scholarship® awards and corporate-sponsored Special Scholarships have increased the nation's respect for intellectual ability and have contributed significantly to its talent pool of future leaders and innovators.
Newspaper editorials nationwide urged Corporate America to join the mission of NMSC—to invest in the best.

Written in 1955, yet still relevant today and even more vital

Now is the Time to Invest in the Future

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We are living in an accelerating scientific age with an ever increasing demand for scientists, engineers, medical and chemical researchers, idea men and women....There is no question many young people who should go on to college do not do so for lack of financing. No one will ever know what wealth the world has missed because of this.

These Merit Scholarships come under the head of human husbandry. We look upon copper, oil, coal, iron as America’s great resources. A bad error. Brains, ability, and a thrust-forward spirit in youth are far more important assets to be exploited, developed and nurtured, not squandered. Resources, without brains and knowhow, equal nothing.

All in all, the [National Merit Scholarship] idea is an inspired project as well as a generous one...and well thought out to act chiefly as the catalytic agent to induce American business and industry to give...the most promising students...more support.