



Tuesday, April 10, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

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88 Southern Baptist High School Seniors Recognized for Scholarship and Musical Achievements in National Contests Over \$10,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Students and their Schools

Three hundred sixteen (316) high school seniors from the Class of 2018, enrolled in thirty-two (32) *Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools* (SBACS) member schools, were nominated to compete in a national awards program for their outstanding scholarship and/or musical achievements (see attached lists). Out of the eighty-eight (88) finalists selected from the field, nineteen (19) share the spotlight as national, regional or state award winners, dividing \$9,250 in college grants: \$1,000 to each of the national winners, \$500 to each of the regional winners, and \$250 to each of the state winners. National and regional scholar winners' schools also received cash awards for each nominee ultimately selected as a winner.

Each fall, SBACS 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 SBACS Scholars Awards Program](#) awards two (2) national winners \$1,000 each, seven (7) regional winners \$500 each, and five (5) state winners \$250 each. Fourteen (14) Christian school students were selected as 2018 scholarship winners from a field of seventy-six (76) scholar finalists from ten (10) states. 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 SBACS Musicians Awards Program](#) awards one national winner \$1,000, two regional winners \$500 each, and two state winners \$250 each. Five (5) Christian school seniors were selected as 2018 musician winners from a field of twelve (12) music finalists from six (6) states. 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 SBACS 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. SBACS 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 SBACS 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 SBACS member school students throughout the United States to receive help with the cost of higher education.

To request photos of winners and finalists, e-mail drwscott@sbacs.org

2018 Award Winners

(in rank order)

National Scholar Winners (\$1,000)

Hannah Anderson - *Indian Rocks Christian School, Largo, FL*
Hannah Tarwater - *Whitesburg Christian Academy, Huntsville, AL*

Regional Scholar Winners (\$500)

Hunter Curlee - *High Point Christian Academy, High Point, NC*
Jeremy Bernius - *Bethlehem Christian Academy, Bethlehem, GA*
Julia Williams - *Cypress Christian School, Houston, TX*
William Holk - *Cambridge Christian School, Tampa, FL*
Eric Beecham - *Grace Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN*
Christina Varghese - *Life Way Christian School, Centerton, AR*
Paul Evans - *Whitefield Academy, Louisville, KY*

State Scholar Winners (\$250)

Elizabeth Kruse - *Northland Christian High School, Kansas City, MO*
Kristy Lieu - *Eagles Landing Christian Academy, McDonough, GA*
Sara Houff - *Grace Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN*
Scott Ater - *Cambridge Christian School, Tampa, FL*
Alyssa McInnis - *North Raleigh Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC*

National Musician Winner (\$1,000)

Grace Neal - *Hyde Park High School, Austin, TX*

Regional Musician Winners (\$500)

Courtnee Newsome - *The First Academy, Orlando, FL*
Kelsey Dial - *North Raleigh Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC*

State Musician Winners (\$250)

Peter Johnson - *Carmel Christian School, Matthews, NC*
Matthew Quinn - *Whitefield Academy, Louisville, KY*