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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **77 Southern Baptist High School Seniors Recognized for Scholarship and Musical Achievements in National Contests \$9,500 in Scholarships Awarded to Students**

Three hundred eighty-two (382) high school seniors from the Class of 2019, enrolled in thirty-five (35) *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 seventy-seven (77) semifinalists selected from the field, sixteen (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: \$2,000 to each 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, \$1,000 to each 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, \$500 to each 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, and \$250 to each Finalist.

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 one (1) 1<sup>st</sup> place winner \$2,000, one (1) second place winner \$1,000, one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner \$500, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students were selected as 2019 scholarship winners from a field of sixty-five (65) scholar semifinalists 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 (1) 1<sup>st</sup> place winner \$2,000, one (1) second place winner \$1,000, one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner \$500, and five (5) Finalists \$250 each. Eight (8) Christian school students were selected as 2019 scholarship winners from a field of thirteen (13) musician semifinalists from seven (7) 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.

For more information about the SBACS scholarship program, e-mail [drwscott@sbacs.org](mailto:drwscott@sbacs.org)

## **2019 Award Winners**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$2,000)**

**Jonathan Richardson** - *Foundation Academy, Winter Garden, FL*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$2,000)**

**Samuel Bellon** - *Hyde Park High School, Austin, TX*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$1,000)**

**Jarod Godwin** - *Calvary Day School, Winston-Salem, NC*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$1,000)**

**Jessica Berg** - *Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Scholar Winner (\$500)**

**Grant Webb** - *The King's Academy, Seymour, TN*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Musician Winner (\$500)**

**Mary McRee** - *Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL*

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

*(in rank order)*

**Gabrielle Meena** - *The First Academy, Orlando, FL*

**Adam Fernandez** - *Cambridge Christian School, Tampa, FL*

**Lauren Storey** - *Cypress Christian School, Houston, TX*

**Nandna Lahoti** - *Hyde Park High School, Austin, TX*

**Reece Moore** - *Prestonwood Christian Academy, Plano, TX*

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

*(in rank order)*

**Abigail Wilson** - *Mount Juliet Christian Academy - Mount Juliet, TN*

**Joshua Ingeneri** - *Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL*

**Rachel Oglesby** - *North Raleigh Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC*

**Ryan Turner** - *Parkview Baptist School, Baton Rouge, LA*

**Jadyn Till** - *Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL*