

Urbandale High School Senior Named National Merit Finalist

Urbandale High School Senior, Nathan Torstenson, has passed the semifinalist round and has been selected to advance as a National Merit Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program

URBANDALE, Iowa – February 17, 2015 – Of over 1.5 million entrants, [Urbandale High School](#) senior, Nathan Torstenson, has earned the prestigious honor of being named a [2015 National Merit® Scholarship Program Finalist](#). In order to become a Finalist, Torstenson achieved high scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) as well as the actual SAT, possessed an exemplary academic record, was involved in activities and leadership roles, developed a compelling essay submission and completed a number of other highly competitive requirements. Torstenson will advance as a Finalist in the academic competition and will be considered for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$33 million and an opportunity to earn the notable Merit Scholar® title.

“We take great pride in the academic reputation of Urbandale High School. Nothing reinforces that reputation like an individual who achieves to the nation’s highest level and meets the rigorous standards of the National Merit Scholarship Program,” said Dr. Brian Coppess, Urbandale High School Principal. “Nathan worked very hard to earn this distinction. I proclaim well done to Nate and his parents and offer a heartfelt thank you to Nate for being an outstanding scholar and role model and for representing the J-Hawk Way so well.”



Nathan Torstenson, Urbandale High School Senior, Named National Merit Finalist

Since its founding in 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation has recognized 3 million students and provided approximately 387,000 scholarships worth over \$1.5 billion. The three types of Merit Scholarship awards include the National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards and College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards. The 2015 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. If Torstenson becomes a National Merit Scholarship winner he will not only join

more than 308,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title, but will also join his father, Cam Torstenson, who was a 1985 graduate of UHS and a National Merit Scholar.

[Transforming education](#) throughout the Urbandale Community School District is at the core of every learning experience. Urbandale believes that supporting students in their academic pursuits—be it participating in nationwide academic competitions, [learning critical thinking tools to solve business challenges](#), or contributing leadership skills during the Step UP initiative—is fundamental for preparing students to become college- and/or career-ready. The Urbandale Community School District congratulates Torstenson on receiving this prestigious and well-deserved recognition.

About National Merit Scholarship Corporation

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. NMSC conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program and the National Achievement® Scholarship Program—annual competitions for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships. Since its founding, NMSC has recognized 2.9 million students and provided over 377,000 scholarships worth about \$1.5 billion. The honors awarded by NMSC to exceptionally able 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 accomplishments and have contributed significantly to its talent pool of future leaders. To learn more, visit: www.nationalmerit.org

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, Illinois 60201

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.UrbandaleSchools.com

Urbandale Community School District
11152 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Contact:

Dena Soenke
Communications Partner
Urbandale Community School District
soenked@urbandaleschools.com
(515) 868-1879

###