



For Immediate Release

Urbandale Students Named 2013 National Merit® Scholarship Program Finalists

Two Urbandale High School students, Michael Clinkscales and Parker Howard, have been named National Merit finalists

URBANDALE, Iowa – March 14, 2013 – Of over 1.5 million entrants, [Urbandale High School](#) students, Michael Clinkscales and Parker Howard, have earned the prestigious honor of being named [2013 National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists](#). In order to become finalists, Clinkscales and Howard 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, were involved in activities and leadership roles, developed compelling essay submissions, and completed a number of other highly competitive requirements.



1. Parker Howard, Lt. Governor Reynolds, Michael Clinkscales

"Being selected as a National Merit Finalist is one of the highest academic honors a high school student can receive. The district is extremely proud of these two young men for their efforts and achievement; they work extremely hard and are deserving of this recognition," according to Principal Richard Hutchinson and Superintendent Dr. Doug Stilwell.

Since its founding in 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation has recognized 2.9 million students and provided over 377,000 scholarships worth about \$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 National Merit Scholarship Corporation will announce winners beginning in April and concluding in July.

The [Urbandale Community School District](#) is dedicated to helping all students achieve performance excellence both inside and outside the classroom. The Urbandale team congratulates Clinkscales and Howard for their outstanding achievements and commendable accomplishments.

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 4,400 students in six elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 44 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 tools and tactics 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 life-long learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.urbandaschools.com

Urbandale Community School District
11152 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Contact:

Dena Soenke
Communications Partner
Urbandale Community School District
soenked@urbandale.k12.ia.us

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