

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2025

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College of Eastern Idaho Student Advances to Final Round for National Merit Scholarship



Photo of Avigail Oliver

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) is proud to announce that Avigail Oliver, an exceptional student enrolled in CEI's dual-credit program, has advanced to the **final round of the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program**. This achievement places her among the top academic scholars in the nation, recognizing her dedication to excellence in education and her outstanding academic abilities.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a highly competitive academic contest that identifies and honors the brightest high school students across the country. Each year, over 1.3 million students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Of these, only a select group of students progress to the final

round, making Avigail's achievement a testament to her hard work, intelligence, and determination.

Avigail, who began her academic journey through homeschooling, enrolled at CEI at just 15 years old and quickly distinguished herself as an outstanding student. She has completed multiple advanced math courses, including Calculus I, II, and III, earning high praise from her instructors. Her passion for engineering and problem-solving has been evident in her coursework and interactions with peers.

"Avigail is in the top 1% of all students I have worked with in my career," said Betsey Pitts, previous calculus instructor at CEI. "She is a clear, organized thinker who thrives on solving complex problems. Beyond her exceptional academic performance, she is a generous and kind classmate who elevates discussions and inspires those around her."

Beyond the classroom, Avigail has demonstrated remarkable dedication to her future in engineering. With the support of CEI faculty, she explored multiple university engineering

programs before deciding to attend Texas A&M University in the fall to pursue a degree in engineering.

“It is such an honor to be a National Merit Finalist!” said Avigail, “This recognition has opened doors for me to study engineering at one of the top ten schools in the US for Engineering, Texas A&M. I appreciate the opportunities available to me because of National Merit and I am excited to pursue higher education and a career in Engineering!”

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) aims to recognize and support academically talented students like Avigail by providing scholarship opportunities that foster higher education and encourage intellectual achievement. Winners of the National Merit Scholarship will be announced in the coming months.

CEI congratulates Avigail on this incredible achievement and wishes her continued success as she takes the next steps in her academic journey.

For more information about CEI’s dual-credit programs and student success stories, visit cei.edu.

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About College of Eastern Idaho

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC) offers associate degrees, technical certificates, and workforce training programs to help students achieve their educational and career goals. With a focus on affordability, accessibility, and student success, CEI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training to the residents of eastern Idaho. Visit <https://cei.edu> for more information.