



PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2013

**Springwood Senior, Ashton Cowart, Semifinalist
in 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program**

Springwood senior, Ashton Cowart, qualified as a Semifinalist in the 59th annual National Merit Scholarship Program this fall. She is the daughter of Charles and Sharon Cowart of LaGrange.

Ashton was named a Semifinalist based on her score on the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The pool of approximately 16,000 semifinalists represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school students. These academically talented high school seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition to become a Finalist and contend for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$35 million that will be offered next spring.



Ashton Cowart

"We congratulate Ashton for her exceptional achievement and commend her for her dedication to her studies," said Springwood Headmaster, Mr. Rick Johnson. "We wish Ashton all the best as she continues her hard work and attempts to become a Finalist in this prestigious competition."

At Springwood, Ashton is involved in numerous clubs and organizations including National Honor Society, Robotics Team, STARS, Graphic Design, Math Team, and the Wildcat Track Team. Her leadership positions have encompassed Head of the Project Engineering Notebook for the BEST Robotics Team, President and Vice President of STARS Organization, Junior Class Treasurer, SGA Representative, and Vice President of Junior Scholars.

Ashton's awards and honors are many including the Junior Presbyterian College Academic Achievement Award, Wofford Scholars Award, Springwood Headmaster's List, AISA Junior High English Award, 1st in the Alabama House of Representatives Congressional Art Competition for high school students in the Digital Art division, 1st Place Design in Springwood Planner Cover Design, STARS Organization T-shirt Designer, and Most Improved Girls Track Award.

Outside of her school activities, Ashton has been an ambassador for the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer for the Hawke's Library Children's Reading Program. She participated in the Creative Youth Art League LaGrange Art Show and the Alabama House of Representative Congressional Art Show. Ashton attended the Auburn University High School Leadership Conference and was a member of a West Point Recreation Soccer Team.

To be considered as a Finalist, Ashton must maintain her outstanding academic record in high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm her earlier performance on the qualifying test. About 15,000 students are expected to be named finalists in February. National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from that group based on their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in college studies. Congratulations and good luck Ashton.