



Bibb County School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOWARD HIGH SENIOR GAINING SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

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(MACON, GA) –Howard High School senior Eunice Chon was recently announced as a semifinalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke and Gates Scholarship programs, while being named a regional finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholarship. Chon is also a QuestBridge College Prep Scholar, National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Winner and National Advanced Placement Scholar who self-studied for five Advanced Placement exams last year. She will receive her associate degree in Core Curriculum from Middle Georgia State University this spring.

Chon is an aspiring journalist who plans to study sociology, religion or politics in college. Outside of school, she is passionate about finding ways to improve gender, racial and educational inequity in her community and received the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Fund Committee Community Service Award. She looks forward to using her college education to learn how she can make more impact on society.

Chon, the daughter of the Rev. Daniel Chon and Mrs. Lois Chon, joins 496 high school seniors out of 5,860 applicants as a semifinalist for the Cooke College Scholarship Program. This highly selective scholarship provides exceptionally talented students who have financial need with up to \$40,000 annually for four years of college, to enable them to attend a top-performing college or university.

The semifinalists represent 428 different high schools. Every year, around 60 students are chosen for the scholarship. The 2021 Cooke College Scholarship recipients will be announced in April.

“These semifinalists embody determination and resilience as they navigate finishing high school during one of the most difficult and unprecedented times in American history,” said Executive Director Seppy Basili. “In the midst of these challenging times, we remain deeply committed to ensuring that students have the opportunity to access an education and reach their fullest potential. I am honored to recognize these students for their hard work and achievements.”

Students applied from all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. A list of the semifinalists can be found [here](#).

Vision: Each student will demonstrate strength of character and will be college or career ready.

Mission: The Bibb County School District develops a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.

Cooke College Scholars are selected based on exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, and leadership. Students must be current high school seniors residing in the United States. Scholarships are awarded without respect to religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status, geographic region, race, or ethnicity.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded over \$222 million in scholarships to over 2,800 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive educational advising and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$115 million in grants to organizations that serve such students.

Recently, Chon joined the selection of 250 high school seniors as regional finalists for the Coca-Cola Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation supports more than 1,400 exceptional college students each year, with annual scholarships of \$3.55 million awarded through 3 nationally recognized programs. The next step will be for 150 students to become Coca-Cola Scholars and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program scholarship is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities. With the 32nd class in 2020, the Foundation has provided over 6,300 Coca-Cola Scholars with more than \$72 million in educational support.

Chon was also chosen as one of 2,000 high school seniors who have exhibited exceptional potential as semifinalists for the prestigious Gates Scholarship Program. Scholars will receive funding for the full cost of attendance that is not already covered by other financial aid and the expected family contribution, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the methodology used by a scholar's college or university.

The Gates Scholarship is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding minority high school seniors from low-income households. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to 300 of these student leaders, with the intent of helping them realize their maximum potential. An ideal candidate will have an outstanding academic record in high school while having demonstrated leadership ability and exceptional personal success skills.

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