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### **TWENTY-THREE SENIORS FROM MASS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE RECOGNIZED AS COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2017 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Worcester, Mass. – September 19, 2016 – Twenty-three students from the Mass Academy of Math and Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were recognized as "National Merit Commended Students" in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented to these scholastically talented seniors.

The seniors are **Dany Alkurdi** (Worcester), **Miles Arnett** (Worcester), **Hannah Boyce** (Groton), **Ashwin Chidambaram** (Shrewsbury), **DaJin Chu** (Bedford), **Kevin Diggins** (Berlin), **Philip Economou** (Worcester), **Gina El Nesr** (Southborough), **Nicholas Freitas** (North Grafton), **Brynnydd Hamilton** (Upton), **Arun Jeevanantham** (Westborough), **Srinvas Lade** (Shrewsbury), **Ryan LaPointe** (Lunenburg), **Nadia L’Bahy** (Leominster), **Hallie Martin** (Holden), **Vineet Mathur** (Hopkinton), **Sahil Nawab** (Shrewsbury), **Nicholas Patella** (Uxbridge), **Aarushi Pendharkar** (Worcester), **Athreya Ramesh** (Northborough), **Niam Shah** (Hopkinton), **Marie Tan** (Shrewsbury), and **Tal Usvyatsky** (Northborough).

“Mass Academy is extremely proud of our students. Their work ethic and appreciation for learning is second to none. We recognize the collaborative efforts of the talented faculty who have worked with our students at Mass Academy, at their sending schools, and at WPI”, comments Mass Academy Director Mr. Michael Barney.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic progress. Although they will not continue in the 2017 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 5% of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic

development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

### **About Mass Academy**

The Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science is a public school of excellence for 100 academically accelerated high school juniors and seniors in Massachusetts. It emphasizes math and science within a comprehensive, interactive program. The rigor of junior year classes exceeds high school honors and Advanced Placement (AP), with more than 1,100 hours of instruction. Seniors complete a year of college, enrolling in classes at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a nationally ranked engineering school, thus making the Academy the only public school in Massachusetts whose students attend a private university full-time as seniors in high school. For more information on Mass Academy, visit [www.massacademy.org](http://www.massacademy.org).

Founded in 1865 in Worcester, Mass., WPI is one of the nation's first engineering and technology universities. Its 14 academic departments offer more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts, leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. WPI's talented faculty work with students on interdisciplinary research that seeks solutions to important and socially relevant problems in fields as diverse as the life sciences and bioengineering, energy, information security, materials processing, and robotics. Students also have the opportunity to make a difference to communities and organizations around the world through the university's innovative Global Perspective Program. There are more than 30 WPI project centers throughout North America and Central America, Africa, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

[www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu)

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