Officials from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation have announced that Connor Akers has been named a Semifinalist in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about $31 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirement to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Congratulations to Connor Akers on this outstanding accomplishment.

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

Sweet Blessings (Ashley Boyd Gann, Founder and Executive Director) has provided cakes for many Woodford County students living in poverty. These cakes are one-of-a-kind cakes that are created just for the child in mind. The cakes make the children feel so special and so loved. Last year they did approximately 125 cakes for our students. This year our Family Resource Center has sent in referrals for the entire year of approximately 200 cakes.

Sweet Blessings isn’t a bakery, it is a non-profit ministry which creates happy birthdays and unforgettable cakes for children living in poverty, with a life-threatening illness, or special needs. Cakes are made with a specific child in mind and decorated in his or her favorite colors, hobbies, sports teams, etc. Sweet Blessings accepts referrals from schools, churches and social service providers.

According to their website, Sweet Blessings started out fulfilling referrals on 163 children in 2011. That number has grown to 2,730 children in 2017.