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**Mission Statement**

To carry out the wishes of the Samsung Group at the time of the original scholarship endowment. Establish, review and maintain eligibility rules for participants. Determine the number and value of scholarships to be awarded. Select the most qualified applicants as Department Finalists and national Scholars. Investigate and discuss possible expansion of the program. Establish guidelines for participation in one such expansion, the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association. Strive for the continued success of a generous benefactor’s gift.

**Introduction**

On July 26, 1995, the Samsung Group and The American Legion held a joint press conference in Washington D.C. to announce Samsung’s endowment of $5 million to The American Legion for the purposes of founding a scholarship with emphasis on the families of those who served during the Korean War.

Mr. K.S. Park's (Chairman, Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.) words from that day – which honored the American military for protecting the Korean peninsula during the Korean War – remain a source of great pride and challenge to The American Legion. “We (Samsung) wanted to demonstrate our appreciation. The best way to do this, we believe, is to offer educational opportunities to the children and grandchildren of the American veterans who served their country so honorably. The American Legion is the perfect organization for accomplishing this.”

At the ceremony, William M. Detweiler, National Commander, The American Legion thanked Samsung for their generous endowment to a scholarship benefitting the children and direct descendants of war-time veterans. In part, Commander Detweiler stated, “We are fully aware of the significance of
Samsung’s offer... Americans who answered a call to duty in the earliest days of the Cold War, and served under the United Nations banner to enforce its mandate and preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula, are truly deserving of this long awaited and deserved recognition (Korean War Veterans Memorial) in what has become known as ‘The Forgotten War.’

“The proud and tenacious people of the Republic of Korea have not forgotten what took place 45 years ago... and they have not forgotten the close alliance the United States has maintained with the Republic of Korea ever since.”

**Program Overview**

Created from Samsung’s generous endowment, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship issues awards only from interest and other income to the fund. The principal amount of the fund will not be used for the scholarships.

Through its existing organizational structure, The American Legion administers the endowment fund and scholarship program at the local, state and national levels. This includes – but is not limited to – selection of scholarship awardees, development and implementation of program organization, and marketing strategy for the program.

Since inception of the scholarship, The American Legion has invited a representative of Samsung to aid the Committee on Youth Education (COYE) in selection of the National Scholars. The COYE consists of members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to selecting the National Scholars, the COYE is responsible for developing and maintaining a plan for the scholarship program’s selection process and eligibility criteria. The committee announced the first Samsung American Legion National Scholars in September 1996.

“Samsung values education. One of the most important contributions we can make is to support students in their pursuits of academic excellence. Helping future generations achieve their scholastic goals is a priority for us.” — Mr. K.S. Park, Chairman, Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.
Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Direct-descendant¹ of a wartime veteran, as officially designated by the United States government, who served honorably
  - World War I (April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918)
  - World War II (December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946)
  - Korean War (June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955)
  - Vietnam War (February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975)
  - Lebanon/Grenada (August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984)
  - Panama (December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990)
  - Persian Gulf War/War on Terrorism (August 2, 1990 – Present)

- Attend American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State during the summer between their junior and senior years of high school

- Complete the online application process including upload of all supporting documentation prior to 11:59PM at the close of the first day of their respective Boys State or Girls State program

To be considered as a National Scholar the applicant must be:

- Selected as the (one) State Finalist from their respective Boys State or Girls State program²

- Selected as a Samsung American Legion National Scholar by the members of the Committee on Youth Education at their fall meetings, typically held in October of each year

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¹ Direct-descendant is defined as the applicant being the legal child, grandchild, great grandchild, et cetera of a qualified wartime veteran
² 98-100 Department Finalists are named each year (two from each state: one from each Boys State and one from each Girls State). Hawaii is given the opportunity to nominate two young people (male and female), as they typically do have a Boys State or Girls State program. However, in 2016, Hawaii hosted its first Girls State.
GOVERNING RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 24
National Executive Committee, Fall, 2014

REVISED RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF
THE SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, September 3, 1995, titled “Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” authorized The American Legion to create a scholarship program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 2000, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” established criteria for awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program from an applicant pool of representatives from The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, Res. No. 19, National Executive Committee, October 9-10, 2002, incorporated changes in eligibility criteria for students from Hawaii as recommended by the National Committee on Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 The American Legion was pleased to honor its longstanding relationship with Samsung through presentation of its prestigious Patriot Award, followed by a visit to Samsung Global Headquarters in Seoul, Korea, by the National Commander; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and Samsung Electronics located at the North America Headquarters in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, have reinvigorated discussions of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program to enhance the application process for benefit of the applicants, and publicly promote and elevate prominence of the Samsung American Legion Scholars; and
WHEREAS, Changes to the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded is recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That effective in 2015 the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall be:

1. As previously established, one representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy and one high school junior girl from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of “Samsung American Legion State Finalists”,

2. The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:

   · Western Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington
   · Midwest Region: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
   · Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
   · Southeast Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
   · Northeast Region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

3. Two (2) “Samsung American Legion Scholars” will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions regarding eligibility and administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program shall remain unchanged:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:
   World War I         April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
Lebanon and Grenada August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
Panama December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
Gulf War/War on Terrorism August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government,

2. Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,

3. Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,

4. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university,

5. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds,

6. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust,

7. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student’s education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student’s particular course of study or school),

8. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time,

9. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education,

10. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter,

11. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a “Request for Funds” form,

12. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school,
13. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award,

14. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility,

15. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining,

16. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Rules and Conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 19 of the National Executive Committee, October 9–10, 2002, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” is hereby superseded and rescinded.

The 2015 Samsung American Legion Scholars with Samsung representatives Kyung Choi(far left) and Bill Welker(far right)(Not pictured is Grant Moles of Utah)
# Program Award History

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Year</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$242,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$310,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$328,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$326,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$233,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>$277,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$266,750*</td>
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**Total** $5,757,750

1 Subject to adjustment by the Finance Commission in May 2016.

# Administrative Expenses

**Table 2**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postage and Shipping</td>
<td>$2,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper and Printing</td>
<td>$43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>$836</td>
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**Total** $3,543

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Tim Vasil, Samsung American Legion Alumnus – 1998, works as the Vice President of Engineering at Hospital IQ. Tim holds a Bachelor of Computer Science from Harvard and an MBA and Masters of Computer Science from MIT, where he was an MIT Fellow in the Leaders for Global Operations program, winning the 2011 Best Thesis Award. He also holds a utility patent for a technique involving workflow on a plurality of task servers. In his spare time, Tim works with the Pan Mass Challenge bike-a-thon fundraiser for cancer research. Tim was the featured alumni speaker at the 2016 Samsung American Legion Scholar Recognition in Washington D.C.
Beginning in June 2014, Samsung and The American Legion conceived the Samsung American Legion Scholar National Recognition in Washington, D.C. The recipients of the $20,000 Samsung American Legion Scholarship from the previous Fall Meetings were brought to our nation's capital, where each organization honored them. In June 2015, the event expanded from one to three days. The additional time gave Scholars a greater chance to learn about both organizations and experience some of the history in Washington, D.C. The culmination of the trip is a breakfast or luncheon on Capitol Hill with representatives from Samsung, The American Legion and Senators and members of the House from each Scholar’s home state. For the first two years, Samsung and The American Legion shared the cost of the event. A generous grant from Samsung in 2015 allowed for the entirety of the recognition to be covered from 2016 – 2018. A breakdown of the 2016 expenses follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Travel (scholars and staff)</td>
<td>$8,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing (scholars and staff)</td>
<td>$11,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Transportation (all)</td>
<td>$2,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping / Printing / Administrative</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals (including main recognition)</td>
<td>$4,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branded Items / Honorariums</td>
<td>$1,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Diem</td>
<td>$934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,933</strong></td>
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HISTORICAL & 2016 STATISTICS

HISTORY OF $20,000 WINNERS BY DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM

*The placement of a “0” means no scholarships awarded

2016 Online Applications

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Apps Began</th>
<th>Apps Completed</th>
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<tr>
<td>9519</td>
<td>5543</td>
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2016 Samsung American Legion Scholars with volunteers from The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion and American Legion national staff at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA.
NORTHEAST REGION SCHOLARS

SYDNEY CLOSS

Hometown: Middletown, NJ
GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 1

Academics / Activities:
- NJ Girls Career Institute Leadership Program – Delegate
- National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society
- Bottlecappers Group Leader (Anti-bullying)
- Athletic Leadership Council (Swim Team)

Community Service / Work Experience:
- Special Olympics Swimming Coach
- Birthday Buddies, Founder – high school club promoting integration of students with special needs
- Paid Tutor

Future Goal: Sydney will pursue a PhD in a mathematics related field. She will attend Yale for her undergraduate work.

Sydney’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

RYAN ZUZULOCK

Hometown: West Deptford, NJ
GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 1

Academics / Activities:
- Student Council President (previously VP)
- DECA Vice President (Multiple local / national awards)
- National Honor Society, National Arts Honor Society, World Language Honor Society
- Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale Alumni
- Seven-time varsity letterman in five sports

Community Service / Work Experience:
- St. Baldricks Foundation Hair Donation Campaign, Coordinator
- Math Tutor, West Deptford High School
- CVS Pharmacy – General employee
- Phifer Farm – Seasonal Christmas tree and firewood hand

Future Goal: Ryan will pursue a degree in Computer Science from a top-tier university with a specific focus in cyber security.

Ryan’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
CENTRAL REGION SCHOLARS

BENJAMIN GUSTAFSON

Hometown: Winchester, VA

GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 2

Academics / Activities:
- AP Scholar Award from CollegeBoard
- William and Mary Leadership Award
- Outstanding Student – Honors Biology / Honors Chemistry
- Forensics/Debate Team (Multiple Honors)
- Class President (3x)
- Student Council Vice President (2x)

Community Service / Work Experience:
- Page – Virginia House of Delegates
- Peer Mentor/Tutor
- Winchester-Frederick Country Convention and Visitor’s Bureau – Volunteer

Future Goal: Benjamin will pursue advanced degrees in business, law and/or public policy from a top-tier institution of higher education.

Benjamin’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

MATTHEW LaMIRANDE

Hometown: Dresser, WI

GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 1

Academics / Activities:
- High School State President – Wisconsin Association of School Councils (WASC)
- Academic Letter (3x)
- Perfect Score – Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble
- Student Council President (Previously VP and Treasurer)
- National Honors Society
- All-Conference in Cross Country and Track

Community Service / Work Experience:
- Summer school classroom aid
- Junior Counselor at WASC Leadership Camp
- Summer Reading Buddy
- Kinship mentor

Future Goal: Matthew wishes to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in a field for which he is passionate.

Matthew’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
JAYELEN KNOWLES

Hometown: Moab, UT
GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 1

Academics / Activities:
- United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar (2016)
- Utah Ambassadors of Music European Tour
- National Honor Society
- Sterling Scholar (science)
- Cross Country and Track (Multiple honors)
- Swimming (Multiple honors)

Community Service / Work Experience:
- Vacation Bible School volunteer
- American Legion Auxiliary poppy sales
- Church Praise Team
- Young Life member
- Arches Trading Post – General employee

Future Goal: Jayelen will pursue a degree in biology or bio-medical engineering.

Jayelen’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

SADIE MACE

Hometown: Paso Robles, CA
GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 14

Academics / Activities:
- Excellence Award for News Writing – 2016 Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association
- Honorable Mention for Editorial Writing – 2014 JEA/NSPA
- FFA member
- Vet Science Team (Multiple honors)

Community Service / Work Experience:
- Charles Paddock Zoo – Level III Handler
- Mission Animal Hospital – Veterinary asst.
- Woods Humane Society – Volunteer
- Kennedy Club Fitness – Student health / wellness advertising coordinator and volunteer

Future Goal: Sadie will pursue her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree.

Sadie’s father is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran.
MIDWEST REGION SCHOLARS

SYDNEY MARCHANDO

Hometown: Highlands Ranch, CO

GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: 11

Academics / Activities:

- All-Academic First Team (Softball, Diving, Track & Field)
- Medal of Achievement (Math & Science) – CO School of Mines
- Silver Award, Girls Scouts of America
- National Honor Society, President
- Rock Canyon High School Athletic Leadership Council

Community Service / Work Experience:

- Two community service letters (earned through her high school)
- Prudential Spirit of Community President’s Award for Service – Bronze Award

Future Goal: Sydney will pursue an undergraduate in chemical engineering and ultimately, an MD.

Sydney’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.

JAMES LIBBEY

Hometown: Saint Michael, MN

GPA: 4.0  Class Rank: Top 1%

Academics / Activities:

- Gold-medalist National Spanish Exam Lv. 5
- Spanish Language Honors Society
- Math League – Team Captain
- National Honor Society
- Summer Mathematics Institute and Math Modeling Camp

Community Service / Work Experience:

- Eagle Scout
- Math Resource Center tutor
- Lector – St. Michael Catholic Church
- Counselor – middle school science camp
- Continued involvement with Boy Scouts of America
- Dairy Queen – Crew member

Future Goal: James will pursue a field in engineering with a focus in electrical engineering.

James’s grandfather is a Korean War veteran.
Nicholas Cordero

Hometown: Cave Springs, AR
GPA: 4.0   Class Rank: Top 1%

Future Goal: Nicholas will pursue an MD with a specialization in pediatric cardiology.

Jennifer Litchfield

Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
GPA: 4.0   Class Rank: 4

Future Goal: Jennifer will pursue an undergraduate degree in economics and engineering and ultimately, a JD.
WORDS OF THANKS

Over the course of a year, we hear from many of our current Scholars and Alumni of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship program. These are some of their words of thanks to both organizations.

“NO? You’re serious, aren’t you?! Oh my god, this is awesome! Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

Sadie Mace (2016 – National Scholar) on initial news of her award

“Wow! I can’t begin to thank Samsung and The American Legion enough. This makes such a huge difference for me and my family. Thank you.”

Ryan Zuzulock (2016 – National Scholar)

“Thank you. This will definitely help me make my own way in obtaining my education. Thank you for very, very much to The American Legion and Samsung for making this possible.”

Nicholas Cordero (2016 – National Scholar)

“Thank you for your generous $750 Samsung American Legion Scholarship. I was more than excited to receive this. My day actually woke me up to ask why I was receiving letters from [The] American Legion... I am excited to begin my pursuit in the biochemistry field after high school... Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back. Again, thank you very much.”

Rachel Winburn (2016 – Department Finalist)

“The Samsung Recognition will long hold a special place in the hearts of both myself and my family. Immediately upon landing back in New York, I received news of the passing of my grandfather, whose service in the Korean War made my participation in the recognition possible. I can think of no greater way to
honor Poppop than through our visits to national war monuments and through The American Legion’s constant support of and recognition for the sacrifice made by men and women in America’s armed forces. When I found out I was a finalist for the scholarship, he was one of the first people I called, and I will never forget him telling me that this award “made Korea worth it.”… The American Legion has changed my life for the better, and I look forward to contributing to the organization as often as possible in the years to come.”

Meghan Slattery (2015 – National Scholar)

“Thank you for selecting me as your 2015 [Nebraska] Girl’s State Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipient. I will work diligently to heed this honor and will not disappoint your decision of choosing me as a recipient. In August, I will be attending the University of Nebraska – Lincoln to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine… I will be the first generation in my family to attend college, and this scholarship will help greatly in accomplishing my lifelong passion of becoming a veterinarian.”

Caitlyn Deal (2015 – Department Finalist)

“As another semester begins, I want to thank you and the Samsung Corporation for the scholarship you gave me. It has a huge impact on allowing me to pursue my education, and I am so grateful to you for that. The American Legion has always held a special place in my heart, and I wish you the best.”

Troy Timmerman (2013 – National Scholar)
2017 & BEYOND

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

- Updated and improved online application system

- New scoring system (highlights):
  - 20 points for essay structure and content
  - 1 point for each sibling up to 2 points total
  - 1 point for each year of work experience up to 3 points
  - 15 points for student activities
  - 15 points for community service/volunteerism
  - NO collection/scoring of class rank

- Proposed restructuring of awards:
  - 10, $10,000 National Scholars (2 per region)
  - 10, $5,000 National Runners-up (2 per region)
  - $1,250 guaranteed to remaining Department Finalists

Nicholas Van Slooten, 2016 – Samsung American Legion National Scholar with his Senator John Boozman (R) of Arkansas.