



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

P. O. Box 232, 39 Bank Street, SE, Chatham, VA 24531

Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

I-59/23-24

Memorandum:

TO: Business, Community and Organizational Leaders
FROM: Teresa Petty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Stacey Oakes, Director of CTE/Instructional Specialty Programs
SUBJECT: Graduate of Merit Sponsorship
DATE: February 10, 2024

The Pittsylvania County School Division's Graduate of Merit (GOM) program is a well-established and successful school and community partnership which recognizes outstanding high school graduates. The program recognizes and acknowledges the accomplishments of our high school graduates who exemplify attributes of achievement, proficiency, character, and social development. We are extending an invitation to your business or organization to partner with us and become a sponsor of the Graduate of Merit program.

Since the inception of the program in 2000, 2,691 students have been recognized as being a Graduate of Merit. Pittsylvania County School Division staff members have acquired sponsors for each Graduate of Merit. However, there are numerous other opportunities to join us in recognizing the accomplishments of these distinguished students. The opportunity is available to sponsor scholarships. Your company or organization may be interested in sponsoring one or more of these scholarships. The number of awards presented is based on funding secured. Miscellaneous sponsorships are also welcomed. Your sponsorship will be greatly appreciated.

\$500 Scholarships:

- ***Above and Beyond Volunteer Service Award*** - The award will be presented to two students from each high school, a total of eight students. Students must apply for this award that is based on exemplary volunteer service.
- ***The James E. McDaniel 212^o Award*** – The award will be presented to the top ranked Graduates of Merit.

\$100 Community Scholarships:

- These scholarships will be awarded to Graduate of Merit recipients based on GOM ranking. *Sponsorship of these scholarships is available once sponsorship of all candidates is achieved.*

Specific details relative to the banquet/recognition ceremony are in the process of being finalized. The Graduate of Merit banquet/ceremony will be held at the Averett Convocation Center (North Campus) on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

An informational brochure and a sponsorship form are enclosed for your review. A listing of the 2024 Graduate of Merit candidates is also enclosed.

We invite you to partner with Pittsylvania County School Division and help us to recognize the outstanding achievements of our graduates by becoming a Graduate of Merit program sponsor. If you have questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Mrs. Stacey Oakes (Extension 5018) at 434-432-2761.

Enclosures

C: Dr. Mark Jones, Superintendent