

Q: What does it mean to you to be a National Merit Semifinalist, and has it always been one of your goals? *Internally, it has always been one of my goals, which is one of the reasons I have always tried to do my best.*

Q: Did you do anything special to prepare for the PSAT? *There wasn't one specific thing that I did to prepare for the PSAT. I believe that I did well because I took in all of the knowledge passed on in the classroom and built on that with each subject. I have been preparing for my entire school career, because I have always worked hard in all of my classes, learning as much as possible.*

Q: Was it a stressful process working towards accomplishing your goal? If so, how? *Not one particularly stressful time, all of the years of effort combined helped to make it a reality. It was routine to try my best every day. The teachers were instrumental in giving me the tools I needed to succeed.*

Q: What has motivated you to achieve at such a high level? *I have always been self motivated from a young age to achieve my highest potential.*

Q: What other things have you been involved in during your high school years?

1) Humans of Wayne County Interviews - *I interview various people in Wayne County through Wayne County Public Library to promote diversity within the community.*

2) Governor's School - *I spent 5 weeks at High Point University studying issues in Social Science. It was a great experience, both socially and academically.*

3) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - *The Board is composed of judges, district attorneys, city council members, etc., who are looking for various ways to keep local youth out of prison. I serve as a Youth Member on this board.*

4) Mayor's Youth Council is sponsored through the City of Goldsboro and conducts community service projects, sponsors various speakers, etc., who all work to improve Goldsboro for its citizens.

Q: Do you think any of those things contributed to your current success? Will they contribute to success in college? *Absolutely! If I had to pick one, I would say Humans of Wayne County. It has improved my writing skills and my confidence in social interactions. I am actually compiling these interviews into a book, which will certainly teach me invaluable skills along the way.*

Q: How did being a student at WCDS help you prepare to become a National Merit Semifinalist? *The teachers at WCDS are all so helpful, providing varied curriculums; in fact, several of my teachers provide specific PSAT activities weekly.*

Q: What do you see as your biggest accomplishment in your high school career? *I know I've mentioned it, but Humans of Wayne County has helped me to grow as a person in so many ways.*

Q: What will you miss the most after you graduate from WCDS?

I'll definitely miss knowing everyone and seeing those people every day. The small

school atmosphere has been a special part of my life.

Q: What are your possible college majors? *Sociology/Anthropology or Data Science/Statistics.*

Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life?

Both of my parents, because they have always pushed me to reach my potential and provided the resources to do so.

Q: What are some of the things you now have to do for the competition? *There are some essays and recommendations.*

Q: What advice would you give to younger students to help them achieve their goals? *The biggest thing is putting in the work. If you dream big, you have to be willing to work hard. Don't count yourself out of any activity, or think you can't handle it.*

Q: What three words describe how you feel about this accomplishment today?

Excited, thankful, (to both the school and to my parents), and ambitious.

It is inspiring to see how Rohan's hard work and persistence has worked for him. He has been willing to put in extra effort while pursuing excellence at school and he reached his goal. His teachers have long recognized his potential and have encouraged him to pursue his academic dreams. Rohan's parents, Dr. Ajay and Amita Shreenath, had this to say when we asked them to comment on their son's latest distinction;

"We are very proud of Rohan. His accomplishments are a direct result of not only his work ethic and attention to detail but also the academically challenging yet nurturing environment at Wayne Country Day School."

Please join us all in congratulating Rohan and in wishing him success in the competition!