

Two Farmington Public Schools' students qualify for National Cyber Scholarships and one wins

Farmington, MI -- Farmington High School (FHS) Sophomore, Karthikeya Thota, and North Farmington High School (NFHS) Junior Jacob Marchionda, both qualified as finalists in the National Cyber Scholarship Competition.

At the high school level, the competition focuses on a group of computer security puzzles and challenges that test students' skills in the areas of password cracking, reverse-engineering, memory corruption, and cryptography called 'Capture the Flag' (CTF). When a challenge is solved, it gives the players a flag — a secret string of code that can be exchanged for points. The more points gained, the higher the competitor moves up in rank.

To be eligible, students had to meet a variety of requirements including achieving a specific level in CyberStart America.

Six hundred college scholarships were awarded to the top-performing students in the National Cyber Scholarship Competition. These are available to high school juniors and seniors only, and can be used to pursue cybersecurity training at any US college of higher education. Prizes in the National Cyber Scholarship Competition include \$2,500 college scholarships, access to professional cybersecurity training, and more. **On May 18, 2021, Jacob Marchionda was awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship.**

"I am so excited to have earned this achievement and my digital badge to post on my LinkedIn page," stated Karthikeya Thota.

"I'm really thrilled about winning the scholarship," stated Jacob Marchionda. "It gave me an opportunity to use what I've learned to compete for a real prize. All around, it was a really fun experience and will help me pay for college. I'm definitely going to compete next year."

To learn more about the competition, visit <https://www.nationalcyberscholarship.org/>.



www.farmington.k12.mi.us.