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E'town student named National Merit Finalist

ANDREW HARP The News-Enterprise
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Elizabethtown High School student Reid Lunsford has been named a National Merit Finalist.
Submitted photo

An Elizabethtown High School student has been named a National Merit Finalist.

Reid Lunsford, 18, currently is in Bowling Green where he attends Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University.

The academy, for high school juniors and seniors, is where they get to live on campus and take up to about 60 hours of college credit while simultaneously finishing high school.

Lunsford has attended the academy the last two years and has been on campus the last two semesters after that not being the case previously because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He took the PSAT his junior year and because of his score, he was named a National Merit Semifinalist last year. He sent in an application, and two weeks ago he was selected as a finalist. Later, he'll possibly be selected for a scholarship for college.

Lunsford said he currently is waiting to hear back from a couple of his top college choices, so he has not yet chosen what type of scholarship he'd like.

For college, Lunsford said he'd like to get a biomedical engineering degree and/or possibly a chemical engineering degree. After that, Lunsford said he'd like to go to law school and become an intellectual property attorney focusing in medical technologies.

“I had an aptitude I guess for math and science in my schooling career,” Lunsford said. “I’ve known that I wanted to work in that for years now.”

As a fan of Marvel Comics since he was young, Lunsford said he would tell anyone about the intellectual property deals Marvel would make regarding their popular characters. His father noticed this, and Lunsford said he suggested he look into intellectual property law when he was in middle school.

“As I’ve done more research into it as I’ve grown, I’ve realized that’s actually a really cool field that combines my interests and strengths in school,” Lunsford said.

Lunsford also said he credits engineering teachers Justin Line and Jeff Stone for their teachings. He said he previously had done work for a class called capstone in Stone’s class that was involved with the Lemelson-MIT Program where they would pitch an invention, receive a grant to prototype and build it for a year.

He said he’s expecting news about the scholarship sometime in March or April.

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