



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students  
Named as U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalists**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Two students of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program were named as semifinalists in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. These two scholars are Jessica Lu and Ziyao Wang of Rockville. Out of more than 3,300 candidates nationally, approximately 550 semifinalists were selected based on outstanding academic achievements, leadership, personal character, contribution to school and community, and creativity through a rigorous evaluation and review process administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Since 1964 the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. One male and one female representing each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Americans living abroad, as well as 15 at-large students, and up to 20 students in the arts are selected annually in May to be U.S. Presidential Scholar Finalists from the pool of Semifinalists. Finalists are invited to Washington, D.C. in June to receive the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in various events held in their honor.

Jessica Lu expresses her gratitude to the Blair Magnet, "I want to thank the magnet program for being so supportive of me over the last four years. I think the magnet is made a uniquely rewarding experience not just by an intellectually stimulating course load, the opportunities it offers its students, and above-and-beyond teachers, but by the company of singularly gifted peers. As I've learned from and with them over the years, I've never ceased to be amazed by their intelligence and passion and the diversity and depths of their academic and extracurricular interests."

Ziyao Wang adds her thanks, "It's such an exciting surprise to be named semifinalist. How cool would it be to meet President Obama? I want to thank our school and especially my recommender, Mrs. Weldon, for their support during the long application process. I'm really going to miss the fabulous Blair Magnet program next year; it has really given me a unique and valuable secondary education."

Keeping a Special Program Special  
www.mbhsmagnet.org

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2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Semifinalists and Blair Magnet seniors (from left to right), Jessica Lu and Ziyao Wang. (Photos courtesy of Lu and Wang, respectively.)

## **About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation**

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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