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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student  
Earns Third Place Nationally in Prestigious Siemens Competition**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Neil Davey of Gaithersburg, a junior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, placed third nationally in the 2012-13 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. on December 4. This prestigious annual award recognizes remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. As third place winners in the team category, Davey and his partner, Katie Barufka of Reston, VA, were awarded \$40,000 in scholarship funds to share, in addition to the \$6,000 that they had already received in the regional competition. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the College Board.

Davey's microbiology research, "Deletion of Endonuclease G Disrupts Mitochondrial Homeostasis and Leads to Reduced Virulence in the Human Protozoan Parasite *Leishmania mexicana*" was completed under Dr. Sreenivas Gannavaram of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration. Davey comments on his experience and acknowledges the Blair Magnet, "Completing substantial research in the field of microbiology, writing a paper about the potential vaccine that my partner and I developed, and presenting at the regional and national competitions were all outstanding experiences. I am honored to have won Third Place nationally in the prestigious Siemens Competition. There were so many like-minded students with wonderful projects that I met along the way. I am really grateful to the Blair Magnet Program for giving me the foundation of scientific thought that enabled me to work in a lab last summer."

# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Neil Davey, Montgomery Blair Magnet Junior and 2012-13 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology National Third Place Winner

This fall 2,255 students entered this premier national contest, submitting 1,504 projects. Only the top individual and team projects in each of six regions had the honor of competing in national competition, where they presented their projects to a panel of nationally renowned scientists and mathematicians for judging.

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

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, 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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