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MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET FOUNDATION INC.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2015

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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Senior Named as Finalist in Intel Science Talent Search

Silver Spring, MD—Michael Winer of Rockville, a senior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was named as one of 40 national finalists in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search by the Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers this competition. Winer’s research project, *Interactions of Electrons and Phonons in a Crystal*, was completed under the mentorship of Dr. Victor Galitski of the Department of Physics, University of Maryland, College Park.

This year, the 40 Intel finalists hail from 36 high schools in 18 states. Furthermore, Winer and Yizhen Zhang of Richard Montgomery High School, both Montgomery County Public Schools students, are the only finalists in the state. All finalists will compete for \$1,012,500 in awards from the Intel Foundation, including three top awards of a \$150,000 scholarship, three \$75,000 second-place awards, and three \$35,000 third-place awards in each of three different areas. Final judging will take place in Washington, D.C. on March 5-11.

Early last month, Intel Science Talent Search, the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in this country, announced the names of 300 semifinalists from a pool of more than 1,800 entrants from 460 schools in 41 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and five overseas locations. Of these, twelve hailed from the Blair Magnet. Each of these semifinalists was awarded \$1,000 for his or her original science project, and Montgomery Blair High School will receive \$12,000 (\$1,000 for each of the semifinalists) to be used to further science, math, and engineering education. In the Blair Magnet Program, this original work represents the student’s senior research project, which is overseen by magnet science and research teacher Ms. Angelique Bosse. This research is completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university.

Ms. Bosse praises Winer, “Mike is not only extremely bright and knowledgeable in his field of study, but he also happens to have a

MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET
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quirky sense of humor that balances his intellect and contributes to his personality. He is known for his strong physics knowledge and has taken the initiative to share his intellect by competing in the National Science Bowl, representing the U.S. in the International Physics Olympiad, and now representing Blair as a finalist in the 2015 Intel STS. Mike's energy, enthusiasm, and passion for physics will help him to be successful at the next level of the Intel STS competition and beyond."

Intel finalist Winer comments on his years in the Blair Magnet, "I have gained a lot from my four years in the Blair Magnet. I've picked up scientific knowledge and close friends. Occasionally at the same time."



Michael Winer, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior and 2015 Intel Science Talent Search finalist. (Photo courtesy of Winer)

Last year three Intel finalists hailed from the Blair Magnet. In this 2014 Intel Science Talent Search, 2014 Blair Magnet graduate Shaun Datta earned tenth place nationally and a \$20,000 scholarship.

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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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