



# MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET FOUNDATION INC.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Named 2016 National Science Bowl Champions**

**Silver Spring, MD**—A team of five students from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program placed first nationally in the National Science Bowl (NSB), which is held annually in Washington, DC and is managed and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science. The team members, with 2015-16 grade level, included Eric Lu (12) of Rockville, Alex Miao (11) and Arnold Mong (12) of Potomac, and Jamie Vinson (11) of Kensington, with team alternate Elliot Kienzle (10) of Bethesda. Blair Magnet science and computer science teacher Mr. Tran Pham has served as the team's longtime coach. For its victory, the team was awarded an all-expense paid science trip to Alaska.

This contest, one of the nation's largest science competitions, began in 1991 and is a highly competitive science education and academic event. It has a fast-paced Jeopardy-type format, where teams of high school students must solve technical problems and answer questions involving branches of science such as biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, and mathematics. The goal of the NSB is to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. This year over 9,000 students representing 69 high schools from all fifty states and the District of Columbia participated in the NSB.

Teams must first compete in regional competitions before advancing to the national competition. Earlier this year, Blair earned the top place in the Maryland Science Bowl, qualifying it to compete nationally. Since the inception of the contest in 1991, Blair's team has ranked in the top five teams multiple times and even won first place nationally in 1999, second place as recently as in 2011, and fifth place in 2014.

Team member Jamie Vinson reflects on the team's victory, "Winning National Science Bowl was not only a great honor, but it was also a

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great surprise. We had to defeat over sixty teams from all over the nation, and it definitely was not an easy task. I am extremely proud of how well we played together as a team, and I look forward to competing in National Science Bowl again next year.”

Teammate Elliot Kienzle looks ahead, too, “For me, the best part of the science bowl is getting to work with everyone on my team. The teamwork aspects really set science bowl apart from a lot of the other competitions, where we all work together studying the material, but still have our own specialties. It’s really wonderful to play with other people, and I’m looking forward to participating next year.”



Montgomery Blair’s team earned the title of 2016 National Science Bowl Champions. Team members included (from left) Elliot Kienzle, Jamie Vinson, Arnold Mong, Eric Lu, Alex Miao, and coach Mr. Tran Pham. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Pham)

### **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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