



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Senior Earns Tenth Place in Prestigious Intel National Contest

Silver Spring, MD—On March 11, Shaun Datta of Potomac, a senior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was named tenth place winner nationally and awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search by the Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers this competition. Datta's research is entitled *Saturated Nuclear Matter in the Large Nc and Heavy Quark Limits of Quantum Chromodynamics* and was completed under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Cohen, Professor, and Mr. Prabal Adhikari, Graduate Student, of the University of Maryland College Park, Department of Physics.

In early January, Datta and eight of his Blair magnet classmates were named semifinalists in this competition and were awarded \$1,000 scholarships each; Montgomery Blair High School was granted \$9,000 to be used to further science, math, and engineering education. Later that month, Neil Davey, Shaun Datta, and Jessica Shi advanced to finalist status. Final judging took place in Washington, D.C., culminating on March 11, at which time Davey and Shi were awarded \$7,500 scholarships each.

The Intel Science Talent Search is the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in this country. 1,794 high school seniors, from 489 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and seven overseas locations submitted their original science projects in the fall, and 300 were named as semifinalists. Forty of these students became finalists and were invited to compete this month for the top ten spots, which include scholarships. In the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program, this work represents the student's senior research project, overseen by magnet teachers Ms. Angelique Bosse. This is original research completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. The work usually begins in the student's junior year and continues throughout the summer. This year Montgomery Blair High School had more finalists than any other high school in the country, and Datta was the only Intel top ten

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scholarship winner in the mid-Atlantic region.

Datta expresses his gratitude, “It was an honor to represent Montgomery Blair HS and Montgomery County at the Intel Science Talent Search (STS), alongside my Blair Magnet classmates Neil Davey and Jessica Shi. I’m proud to be part of an excellent program and high school, like the Blair Magnet and Montgomery Blair High School. The gala was a spectacular finale to a week of incomparable fun. The STS experience was both encouraging and humbling, and I hope to see some of the other finalists in college.”



Shaun Datta, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior, won 10th place nationally and a \$20,000 Scholarship in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Soma Datta)

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

Keeping a Special Program Special
www.mbhsmagnet.org

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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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