



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2012

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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student
Honored as Regional Winner in Prestigious Siemens Competition**

Silver Spring, MD—Neil Davey of Gaithersburg, a Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program Junior, was named as a Regional Winner in the 2012-13 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on November 3. This prestigious annual award recognizes remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. As Regional Winners in the team category, Davey and his partner, Katie Barufka of Reston, VA, were awarded a \$3,000 scholarship each and the opportunity to compete nationally in Washington, D.C. on December 1-4 for scholarships of \$10,000 to \$100,000 per team as National Finalists. Upon first being named a Regional Finalist, Davey received a \$1,000 scholarship. Montgomery Blair High School will benefit additionally by receiving a \$2,000 award for having a Regional Winner, which is to be used to support its science, mathematics, and technology programs. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the College Board.

Davey's 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 graciously comments on his award, "The experience at the Siemens Regional Competition at MIT was wonderful. There were so many like-minded people with amazing projects, and I am truly honored to have been selected as the winning team of the region."

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

This fall 2,255 students entered this premier national contest, submitting 1,504 projects. Besides Regional Winner Davey, the Blair Magnet boasts eight of Maryland's thirteen Siemens Competition Semifinalists.

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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