



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Eight Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Seniors Named as National Achievement Scholar Semifinalists**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Eight Montgomery Blair High School seniors, five of whom are from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named on September 25 as National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists in the 2014 competition. The Blair Class of 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists are Alexander Bourzutschky and Isaac Jiffar of Potomac; Simeon Kakpovi, Christian Lanier, and Paris Parker-Loan of Silver Spring; and Fiona Lachman, Callahan Mayer Marks, and Michelle McGhee of Takoma Park.

This scholarship recognizes outstanding African-American high school students and is sponsored annually by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students will be considered for advancement to Finalist standing based on their academic achievement. If selected as Finalists in January 2014, they will compete for \$2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as well as corporate-sponsored awards. Of the more than 160,000 students who took the screening test for this award, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), approximately 1,600 were selected as Semifinalists, and about 1,300 will be named as Finalists. Roughly 800 of these Finalists will earn scholarships and the title of National Achievement Scholar.

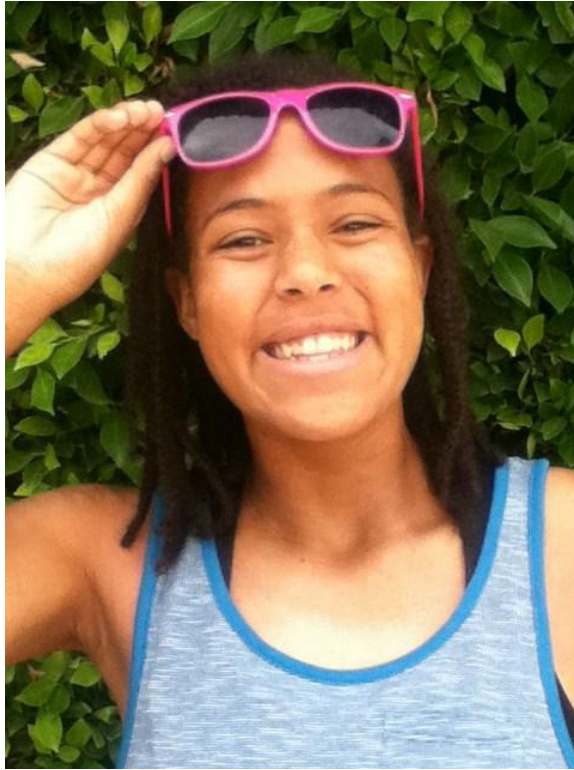
There are 23 National Achievement Scholar Semifinalists throughout Montgomery County Public Schools this year, representing twelve high schools. Of these schools, Montgomery Blair High School has the most National Achievement Scholar Semifinalists, with the other eleven schools claiming at most three each.

National Achievement Scholar Semifinalist and Blair Magnet senior Michelle McGhee credits the Blair Magnet, “I’m honored to be recognized, along with my several of my classmates, as a National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalist. My years in a rigorous program like the Blair Magnet have definitely motivated me to push myself academically. I’ve loved being part of a community of staff

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and students who are so passionate about learning, and I can't imagine where I would be without this amazing experience."



Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program senior Michelle McGhee is one of the high school's eight 2014 National Achievement Scholar Semifinalists, five hailing from the Blair Magnet. (Photo courtesy of James McGhee)

### **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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