



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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### **Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Earn Fifth Place at National Science Bowl**

**Silver Spring, MD**—A team of five Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students earned fifth place at the 2014 National Science Bowl, which was held at the National 4-H Center and the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Members of the team (with their grade level) include Michael Winer (11), captain, of North Bethesda; Eric Lu (10), Bendeguz Offertaler (11), and Victor Xu (11) of Rockville; and Arnold Mong (10) of Potomac. 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 and second place as recently as 2011. Blair magnet math, science, and computer science teacher, Mr. Tran Pham, has served as the team's longtime coach.

This national competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. This year over 9,500 students competed for a spot at the national contest, attending their regional competition first. After this initial round, only 68 high school teams were invited to the National Science Bowl. Each team was comprised of four members, an alternate, and a coach. With a format similar to the game show *Jeopardy*, the goal of this competition is to encourage high school students to excel in science and math and to pursue careers in these fields.

Team captain Michael Winer reflects on the team's performance and looks ahead, "Blair's Science Bowl team's success can be traced both to the hard work of its members and to the educational opportunities offered by the Blair Magnet. Given our success this year and the fact that none of our members were seniors, I have high hopes for the future of the team."

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The Montgomery Blair team earned fifth place at the 2014 National Science Bowl with members (from left): Coach Tran Pham, Michael Winer (captain), Victor Xu, Bendeguz Offertaler, Eric Lu, and Arnold Mong. (Photo courtesy of National Science Bowl)

### **About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation**

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, 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 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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