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**Forty-six Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Seniors Named  
as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists;  
Four More Chosen as National Achievement Scholar Semifinalists**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Forty-six students of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program Class of 2010 were named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in the 2010 competition by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation on September 16. These students will be considered for advancement to Finalist standing based on their academic achievement. If selected as Finalists, they will compete for \$2,500-\$5,000 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as well as corporate- and college-sponsored awards. Of the more than 1.5 million students who took the screening test for this award, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), approximately 16,000 were selected as Semifinalists, and about 15,000 will be Finalists. Roughly 8,200 of these Finalists will earn scholarships and the title of National Merit Scholar.

The Blair Magnet Class of 2010 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists include Alexander Bae, Deepa Chellappa, Lena Jia, Haozhi Lin, Urja Mittal, Chenmuren Zhang, and Devin Zhang of Potomac; Stephen Carlson of Olney; Wenjing Chen, Lawrence Cho, Anand Oza, Peter Qiao, and Elissa Shiau of North Potomac; Angela Choi, Roger Curley, Adam Detzner, Emily Jones, Elaine Lin, Joel Muskin-Pierret, and Joseph Owen of Silver Spring; Michael Cohen of Chevy Chase; Sophia Deng, Timothy Lee, Rohan Puttagunta, Michelle Shen, Xinyi Sui, Yi Xiao, and Scott Zimmerman of Gaithersburg; Jeremy Fallick, Matthew Kannan, Nils Molina, Benjamin Shaya, and David Tao of Bethesda; Jacob Hurwitz, Diana Jing, Pin Joe Ko, Victoria Lai, Yifan Li, Li Ma, Andrea Ng, Xinhong Qiu, David Tolnay, and Scott Yu of Rockville; Amy Liu of North Bethesda; Siqing Liu of Germantown; and Jennifer Wang of Clarksburg.

The total numbers of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists at all Montgomery County Public High Schools are as follows: Bethesda-Chevy Chase (4), Clarksburg (1), Damascus (2), Montgomery Blair

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(53), Northwest (3), Poolesville (2), Quince Orchard (1), Richard Montgomery (28), Rockville (1), Seneca Valley (1), Springbrook (1), Thomas S. Wootton (19), Walt Whitman (17), Walter Johnson (5), and Winston Churchill (11). Richard Montgomery High School is home to the county's International Baccalaureate Program, and many high schools offer specialized learning academies and programs.

In addition, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation honors outstanding African-American high school students' performance on the PSAT/NMSQT in the National Achievement Program. Of the more than 160,000 entrants, roughly 1,600 students are named as Semifinalists and 1,300 as Finalists. About 800 Finalists will be selected as National Achievement Scholarships recipients. The Montgomery Blair Magnet boasts four of the school's five Semifinalists in this competition: Redab Alinifaidy and Jasmine Sarjeant of Silver Spring; Kamal Ndousse of Boyds, and Elfalem Alemu.

### **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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