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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student Represents
Country at UNICEF Children's Climate Forum**

Silver Spring, MD—Rebecca Arbacher of Silver Spring, a sophomore in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was one of four teens to represent the United States at the UNICEF Children's Climate Forum, which was held November 27-December 4 in Copenhagen. The Forum served as a precursor to the United Nations Climate Change Conference and brought together more than 160 students aged 14 to 17 from 44 different countries. The students discussed current issues surrounding climate change, as well as presented their country's initiatives to stop climate change. Arbacher was selected as a teen representative of the United States based on a series of essays that described her personal qualifications, her prior research and experience in the area of climate change, her environmental activism, and her desire to participate in the UNICEF Forum. Her interest in climate change stemmed from an 8th grade Science Fair project on the greenhouse effect, part of her Magnet Capstone Project at the Takoma Park Middle School Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science Magnet Program. Arbacher claims, "This project and the ensuing research was the main reason I had such a developed background on climate change, which played a significant role in my selection."

The weeklong Forum facilitated dialogue and collaboration among the delegates through a series of meetings including all delegates, as well as smaller workshops. The larger sessions provided an opportunity for informal technical and cultural exchange, and the workshops provided participants the chance to focus on a particular area of climate change. A recommendation that Arbacher made in one such workshop to modify the current system of classification of countries based on their economic growth and carbon emissions was even incorporated into the group's final declaration. Arbacher summarizes, "The conference was an amazing experience overall. I really enjoyed getting to work with other adolescents with passion for stopping climate change. I am ecstatic to have had this fantastic opportunity, and I'm planning to continue my work on climate issues in the future."

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

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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