Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Senior Named as Intel Finalist

Silver Spring, MD—On January 27 the Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search, named a Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program senior as a finalist in the 2010 competition. Yifan Li of Rockville is one of 40 Intel finalists nationwide. Only two weeks earlier, Li and eleven of his Blair Magnet classmates had been named semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search with a $1,000 prize each and a separate $12,000 award to Montgomery Blair High School to further science, math, and engineering education.

The Intel Science Talent Search is the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in this country. 1,736 high school seniors, from 175 schools in 37 states, submitted their original science projects in fall, and 300 were named as semifinalists, with only 40 advancing to finalist status. In the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program, this work represents the student's senior research project, which is original research completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. This work usually begins in the student's junior year and continues throughout the summer. Li's research project is entitled "Differentiation of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells into Retinal Pigment Epithelium Cells in Culture." The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program boasts the only Intel Finalist in the state of Maryland.

Li will compete with the other finalists for more than $630,000 in awards from the Intel Foundation, including a top award of a $100,000 scholarship. He is guaranteed at least $7,500 in scholarship money. Finalists will present their research in front of thousands of visitors, including prominent figures in government and science. Final judging will occur at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. on March 11-16.

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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