



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Win Third Place Nationally in Prestigious Siemens Competition**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Two seniors in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program were awarded third place nationally in the 2010-11 Siemens Team Competition in Math, Science, and Technology at George Washington University on December 6. James Pinkerton of Chevy Chase and Rafael Setra of Silver Spring will share a \$46,000 college scholarship for their discrete math project entitled “The Duplicator Spoiler Game for an Ordinal Number of Turns.” Dr. William Gasarch of the Computer Science Department at the University of Maryland College Park served as their mentor. These prestigious annual awards recognize remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by The College Board.

A record number of 2,033 students representing 36 states entered this premier national contest in the fall, for a record number of 1,372 projects submitted. Of the 312 semifinalists, four were from the Blair Magnet; and of the 94 regional finalists, Pinkerton and Setra were the only ones representing Maryland. Along with five other national finalist teams and six national finalists in individual competition, Pinkerton and Setra presented their research to a panel of prominent scientists and mathematicians.

On meeting the other national finalists, Setra comments, “I really enjoyed seeing the other eleven projects and meeting the other students.” Pinkerton acknowledges the Blair Magnet, “We are very proud to be part of the Siemens Competition, and it is an honor to represent the magnet program in such a prestigious competition. The Blair culture of encouraging student research is outstanding. Most freshmen cannot imagine researching mathematics or science for an entire summer. However, after just three years in the magnet, they are eager to explore their passions in a world of their own, to push themselves in ways they never thought possible.”

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## **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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