



## Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 14, 2011

**CONTACT:** Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

### **Montgomery Blair High School Robotics Team Places Third at Regional Robotics Contest**

**Silver Spring, MD**—The Montgomery Blair High School FIRST robotics team earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at the 2011 North Carolina Regional Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition, which was held April 7-9 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Teams from the Eastern United States participated in this annual competition that is designed to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, as well as build self-confidence, leadership, and life skills. More than 50 Blair students were involved, mostly from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program.

In January, participating robotics teams were first informed about the nature of this year's competition, which was to construct a robot to play a game called Logomotion, and given six weeks to build their robot. At the contest, matches lasted two minutes 15 seconds each and were played by two alliances of three robots each, for a total of six robots on the playing field at a time. The goal during the first 15 seconds was for robots to move autonomously in order to hang a yellow tube on a peg at the end of the playing field. During the next stage, student drivers operated the robots with the goal of hanging as many red, white, and blue tubes on the pegs as possible during the remainder of the time period. Extra points were awarded if these tubes were hung in proper order to create the FIRST Robotics logo. During the final ten seconds of each match, robots deployed a minibot to climb a pole and hit a sensor at its top, which resulted in extra points if performed successfully.

During ten such qualifying matches, the Blair team was in first place and earned the right to participate in the elimination rounds, which resulted in its 3<sup>rd</sup> place victory. The Blair team also won the Team Spirit Award, and Blair team president Aaron Tucker of Silver Spring received the Dean's List Finalist Award. Although the team is finished competing this season, it will show off its robot at several community demonstrations. The Blair team is coached by Blair magnet teacher Mr. Erik Lodol.

Address:

MBHS Magnet  
Foundation Inc.  
P.O. Box 5329  
Takoma Park,  
MD 20913o

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Blair robotics team vice president Eric Huang of Gaithersburg reflects on the competition, “I was really proud of our team at North Carolina. Despite the shaky start in the beginning, we finished strong as we showed off our 3.5 months worth of work. This was one of the best finishes to a season we ever had, and I'm glad that we got to end like this for our graduating seniors.”



The Montgomery Blair High School 2010-2011 Robotics Team at the North Carolina Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. (Photo courtesy of Blair team mentor, Dr. Timothy Judkins.)

### **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 a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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