



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student
Selected as National Finalist in the USA Biology Olympiad**

Silver Spring, MD—Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program student, Alexander Briese of Silver Spring, was named today as one of 20 National Finalists in the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO). He and his 19 teammates will compete for medals at the 9th Annual USABO National Finals on June 5-17 at Purdue University. This contest will also result in the selection of four of the 20 scholars to represent the country at the International Biology Olympiad to be held July 10-17 in Taipei, Taiwan. The Blair Magnet senior is the only finalist from Maryland and one of only two from the Washington metropolitan area. In fact, Briese also represented Montgomery Blair in the 2011 US National Chemistry Olympiad in April.

Briese's selection was based on his scores from the USABO Open Exam and Final Exam, taken earlier this year. This year approximately 10,5000 students nationwide participated in the Open Exam. At the National Finals, the 20 finalists will receive intensive theoretical and practical tutorials offered by leading biologists in all fields of biology such as cellular biology, biotechnology, animal and plant anatomy and physiology, and genetics. After this instruction, the students will take a practical exam and a theoretical exam, with the four highest scorers being named Team USA 2011. Since 2007, at least three of the four USA team members have earned gold medals at the international competition.

Magnet biology teacher and Briese's USABO faculty sponsor, Ms. Angelique Bosse, praised Briese, "I am thrilled with Alex's accomplishment. After having just missed qualifying in 2010, Alex's goal was to qualify for the final round of competition this year. His dedication to study, his training with other competitive academic teams at Blair, and his preparation and experiences in the magnet program contributed to Alex's success."

Address:

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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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