Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

P.O. Box 101
Kensigton, MD 20895-0101

Board of Directors:

Eileen Steinkraus
President
Ted Jou
Vice-President
Dan Shepherdson
Treasurer
Ralph Bunday
Member
Sherrie Emoto
Member
Lola Piper
Member
Emily Yanisko
Member
Beth Kaufman
General Counsel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2011

CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

Forty-three Montgomery Blair High School Seniors Named as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Silver Spring, MD—Forty-three Montgomery Blair High School seniors, 40 of whom are from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named on September 14 as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in the 2012 competition, which is sponsored annually by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students will be considered for advancement to Finalist standing based on their academic achievement. If selected as Finalists in February 2012, they will compete for $2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as well as corporate- and college-sponsored awards. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who took the screening test for this award, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), approximately 16,000 were selected as Semifinalists, and about 15,000 will be Finalists. Roughly 8,300 of these Finalists will earn scholarships and the title of National Merit Scholakr.

The Blair Magnet Class of 2012 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists include Melodi Anahtar, Robert Chen, James Shepherdson, Jared Wang, and Kathryn Waychoff of Bethesda; Michael Anderson, Sailunsi Chen, Enoch Hsiao, Tianyi Hu, Andrew Lu, Jessica Lu, Nathan Ng, Eszter Offertaler, and Mengdi Shi of Rockville; Rebecca Arbacher, Rajan Bal, Andrew Gilbert, Justin Ho, Andrew Hu, Elisa Johnson, Shiv Kaul, Gregory Kehne, Frederic Koehler, Sherman Leung, Abigail Ostriker, Naomi Rubin, and Sofi Sinozich of Silver Spring; Alla Avakova, Hyung Byun, Adam Ewel, David Grant, Emily Hu, Maureen Lei, and Victoria Pai of Potomac; David Kaufman and Lori Kaufman of Chevy Chase; Austin Liou and Bartholomeus Machielse of Gaithersburg; Brian Tien-Street of Burtonsville; and Colleen Weatherwax of Kensington. Blair Seniors also named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are Laurel Brown, Richard Castagna, and Zoe Jackson.

Again this year Montgomery Blair is home to more National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists than any other high school in Montgomery County. The total numbers of semifinalists at all Montgomery County

Public High Schools are as follows: Albert Einstein (1), Bethesda-Chevy Chase (14), James Hubert Blake (1), Montgomery Blair (43), Paint Branch (1), Poolesville (12), Quince Orchard (1), Richard Montgomery (39), Sherwood (1), Springbrook (2), Thomas S. Wootton (12), Walt Whitman (20), Walter Johnson (9), and Winston Churchill (13). Richard Montgomery High School is home to the county's International Baccalaureate Program, and many high schools offer specialized learning academies and programs.

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.

###