



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 25, 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 2012 competition. Frederic Koehler of Silver Spring is one of 40 Intel Finalists nationwide. Only two weeks earlier, Koehler and seven of his Blair Magnet classmates had been named semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search with a \$1,000 prize each and a separate \$8,000 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. 1,839 high school seniors, from 497 schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and an overseas location 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 university or research institution. This work usually begins in the student's junior year and continues throughout the summer. Koehler's research project is entitled "Quick and Efficient: Fast Algorithms for Completion Time and Batch Minimization on Multiple Machines" and was completed under the guidance of Dr. Samir Khuller of the University of Maryland College Park Department of Computer Science. The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program boasts the only Intel Finalist in the state of Maryland.

Koehler will compete with other finalists for \$1.25 million 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 8-13.

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Dr. Khuller praises Koehler, “Frederic is extremely intelligent—he worked on the project tirelessly for several months last year, and came up with a couple of amazingly clever algorithms. We hope to get this work published soon. I really enjoyed working with Frederic and am delighted with the way the project turned out.”

Koehler acknowledges his mentor and the Blair Magnet, “I think the value of having a supportive mentor and a research class at Blair can’t be understated. Once I got into my research, one thing led to the next and it was just a problem of thinking long and hard enough—but without the SRP program and Dr. Khuller, it would have been hard to ever get started.”



Frederic Koehler, Blair Magnet Intel Finalist (Photo courtesy of Kevin Li)

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.