

**MARYLAND'S HIGHEST ACHIEVERS IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT®
MATH & SCIENCE WIN SIEMENS AWARDS FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT
Shilpa Kannan of Silver Spring and Alexander Zhu of Rockville
Recognized by Siemens Foundation**

ISELIN, NJ, February 2, 2011— Shilpa Kannan, a senior at Montgomery Blair High School, and Alexander Zhu, a senior at Thomas Sprigg Wootton High School, today were named the Maryland state winners of the 2010 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, a signature program of the Siemens Foundation administered by the College Board. The awards recognize up to 100 of America's top achievers in Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) science and mathematics courses with a \$2,000 college scholarship to one male and one female student in each state. Two national winners are also recognized, each receiving a \$5,000 scholarship. This year, 98 high school students in 50 states – including 91 seniors, six juniors and one sophomore – were recognized.

“These students lead the nation in performance on AP math and science courses and we are proud to support them as they strive for excellence,” said Jeniffer Harper-Taylor, President of the Siemens Foundation.

“The Advanced Placement Program is an effective tool for fostering student achievement in math and science, and by rewarding students who excel in AP science and math, the Siemens Foundation is investing in our nation's next generation of scientists and mathematicians,” said Gaston Caperton, President of the College Board.



SHILPA KANNAN

Total AP Courses Taken to Date: 8

Favorite AP Class: Comparative Government

Notable Accomplishments: Siemens Competition Semifinalist; USA Biology Olympiad Semifinalist; National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist (all 2010)

Plans for College Study: Biochemistry and business

Career Aspirations: Doctor

Hobbies: Captain of debate team and varsity tennis team; volunteer and tutor at local schools



ALEXANDER ZHU

Total AP Courses Taken to Date: 12

Favorite AP Class: Physics

Notable Accomplishments: 2009 Physics Olympiad Quarterfinalist; 2010 Physics Bowl Second Place regional individual; 2009 Who Wants to be a Mathematician Competition Runner-up

Plans for College Study: Biophysics, engineering

Career Aspirations: Doctor or engineer

Hobbies: Volleyball, physics club and math team

Encouraging students to pursue academic careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is a national priority. Students who take AP math and science courses major in STEM fields at significantly higher rates than other students, according to the study, “AP Students in College: An Analysis of Five-Year Academic Careers,” released by the College Board in 2007. Student participation in AP science and mathematics courses grew 9 percent to 1.8 million students from 2009 to 2010.

For a complete list of winners, please click:

<http://multivu.prnewswire.com/mnr/siemensfoundation/48332/>

The Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement

Established in 1998, the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement (http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/advanced_placement.htm) award \$2,000 college scholarships to students from each of the 50 states who have earned the greatest number of scores of 5 on exams in the following AP® courses: Biology, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science A, Environmental Science, Statistics, Physics C Mechanics and Physics C Electricity and Magnetism. Each state potentially has two winners, one male and one female. Two additional national winners (one male, one female) are awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship.

The Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation provides more than \$7 million annually in support of educational initiatives in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the United States. Its signature programs include the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, and The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, which encourages K-12 students to develop innovative green solutions for environmental issues. By supporting outstanding students today, and recognizing the teachers and schools that inspire their excellence, the Foundation helps nurture tomorrow’s scientists and engineers. The Foundation’s mission is based on the culture of innovation, research and educational support that is the hallmark of Siemens’ U.S. companies and its parent company, Siemens AG. For more information, visit www.siemens-foundation.org.

The College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.com.

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