



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

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**TWO PORTLAND TEENS RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNMATCHED
ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

**Vedanth Iyer and Lila Schweinfurth each awarded \$25,000 as 2021 Davidson Fellow
Scholarship Winners**

Portland, Ore. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2021 scholarship winners. Among the honorees are 17-year-old Vedanth Iyer and 18-year-old Lila Schweinfurth, both of Portland. Only 20 students across the country to be recognized as scholarship winners each year.

“I am extremely honored to have been named a Davidson Fellow this year and am thankful to the Davidson Institute for supporting me in my future educational endeavors, and inspiring me to continue my science research in college and beyond,” said Iyer. “For me, becoming a Davidson Fellow not only means being part of a group of highly gifted and intellectual scholars that are quite literally changing the world in a multitude of ways, but it also means inspiring future generations of scientists and engineers to continue seeking out innovative solutions to our world’s most pressing problems.”

For his project, Iyer developed a novel chromium doped cathode material that has the potential to significantly increase the energy capacity and efficiency of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. Today’s technology is demanding greater battery capacities, and Iyer’s discovery has the potential to increase battery energy capacity by fivefold, as well as, significantly increase in the electrochemical cycling efficiency, making it a highly promising solution for next generation Li-ion batteries.

“I’m incredibly honored to be named a Davidson Fellow,” said Schweinfurth. “I’m very grateful to the Davidson Institute for their recognition of my work, and I’m humbled to be joining such an amazing community.”

Inspired by the movie *The Birds*, Schweinfurth developed a highly accurate model to predict up to five weeks in advance when biotoxins produced by harmful algal blooms would reach dangerous levels. Using her model, individuals and communities can be better informed about the rate of biotoxins for recreational shellfish harvesting, potentially reducing biotoxin ingestion.

Both Iyer and Schweinfurth will attend Yale University in the fall. Iyer plans to continue his research in physics and computer science. Schweinfurth, a Yale Hahn Scholar, plans to continue her education in the sciences, using her background in both computer science and biology to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research.

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“The 2021 Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients have risen the challenges of a global pandemic to complete significant projects within their fields of study,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “To be awarded this recognition, these students have shown immense skill and work ethic, and they should be commended as they continue their educational and research journeys while continuing to work to solve some of the world’s most vexing problems.”

The 2021 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a virtual ceremony in September 2021.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$8.6 million in scholarship funds to 386 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by [U.S. News & World Report](#). It is a program of the Davidson Institute, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

About the Davidson Institute

Founded by Bob Davidson in 1999, the Davidson Institute recognizes, nurtures and supports profoundly intelligent young people, and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. The Institute offers support through a number of programs and services, including the Davidson Fellows Scholarship and the [Davidson Academy of Nevada](#). For more information about the 2021 Davidson Fellows, please visit: DavidsonGifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship

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High-resolution photos are available at www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship