



Davidson Institute

Fellows Scholarship

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ROSWELL TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR BUILDING TRACKING MICROSCOPE IN THREE AXES

**Priya Soneji Named A 2021 Davidson Fellows
Scholarship Winner**

Roswell, Ga. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2021 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Priya Soneji of Roswell. Soneji won a \$10,000 scholarship for her project, *Autonomously Tracking Organisms in Three Axes at Microscopic Resolution*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a 2021 scholarship winner.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is such a huge honor for me,” said Soneji. “I am excited to join this wonderful community of brilliant scholars.”

For her project, Soneji developed a new microscope technology to address current microscope limitations. Using a digital microscope attached to a three-axis actuator, and the custom Python script she developed, her microscope allows for autonomous tracking of microorganisms. Her low-cost tool will allow students to conduct research on organisms and behaviors, creating more educational opportunities in science and STEM.

Soneji is a graduate of Milton High School in Roswell and will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall to study mechanical engineering.

“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.

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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