



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

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Contact: Megan Bedera
775-997-5690
Megan@AmplifyRelations.com

ANDOVER TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR PROJECT EXPLORING THE FORMATION OF EARLY LIFE ON INORGANIC EARTH Anna Du Named 2023 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Boston – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2023 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Anna Du of Andover. Du won a \$10,000 scholarship for her project, *Developing an AI-Enhanced Protocol for Simulating Abiogenesis: Novel Nano-Structured Carbon Materials as a Templating Surface for Prebiotic Nucleic Acid Oligomer Formation*. She is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2023 scholarship winner.

“To me, being a Davidson Fellow signifies a commitment to make the world a better place,” said Du. “Furthermore, it represents a community of people from a wide range of backgrounds and interests, who all share the same dedication to improving the world, one step at a time.”

For her project, Du explored how life could have formed on an early, inorganic Earth, using computer modeling followed by physical experiments to validate her hypothesis. By understanding the conditions and processes that could potentially lead to the formation of RNA and DNA without the presence of enzymes, Du’s research has the potential to improve the development of personalized immune modulated therapies for various genetic diseases.

Du is a rising senior attending Phillips Academy with a love for science, technology, and the mysteries of life. Her interest in artificial intelligence and environmental advocacy underscores her commitment to utilizing science and technology to create a better world. In her free time, Du enjoys reading, writing, and speaking about environmental issues, and she looks forward to majoring in a field related to artificial intelligence in college.

“We are proud to announce this year’s class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients who have completed significant projects with the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature, and music,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “The innovations and new thinking added by each class of Fellows serve as an inspiration for future scholars to apply novel technologies and groundbreaking ideas to solve the world’s most difficult problems.”

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The 2023 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2023.

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 \$9.4 million in scholarship funds to 428 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 2023 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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High-resolution photos are available at
[DavidsonFellows.org](#)