



Davidson Institute  
**Fellows Scholarship**

For Immediate Release  
September 15, 2023

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

**HOLLYWOOD TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
RESEARCH ON CELL BEHAVIOR IN ARTERIAL ENVIRONMENTS TO  
TREAT HEART DISEASE**

**Sara Kaufman Named 2023 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner**

---

Miami – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2023 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Sara Kaufman of Hollywood. Kaufman won a \$25,000 scholarship for her project, *A Novel Approach to Venous Smooth Muscle Cell Remodeling Quantification*. She is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2023 scholarship winner.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is an immense honor that demonstrates belief in the power of my creativity that I am still taking in,” said Kaufman. “It recognizes not only the work that I have led, but the potential I have as a scientist. I take it as faith that I can and will change the world, and that trust is something I especially cherish.”

Heart disease, the leading cause of death, kills approximately 360,000 Americans each year. For her project, Kaufman researched cell behavior utilizing new techniques in simulated arterial environments with the goal of developing more effective grafts for treating coronary artery disease. Kaufman’s findings allow researchers to better predict the changes to cells that are autotransplanted during a coronary bypass procedure, potentially reducing surgery failure rates.

Kaufman is a first-year student at Johns Hopkins University, where, as a Charles R. Westgate Scholar, she plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. In addition to her studies, Kaufman is an avid writer, crafting more than 6,000 poems, and publishing a children’s book about anxiety that has been shared with 1,000 schools in Florida and distributed to young girls in immigrant emergency intake camps. She also created the non-profit, Leon’s Roar, in honor of her late father, that donates iPads and tablets to cancer patients to help them overcome some of the isolation that cancer treatment creates.

“This year’s class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients continue to find new and innovative ways to pursue their educational and research journeys while striving to solve some

Cont.

of the world's most vexing problems," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "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."

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](#).

###

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