



Davidson Institute  
**Fellows Scholarship**

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## **LOS ANGELES TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR DEVELOPING SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION GLOVE Julian Olschwang Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner**

Los Angeles – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Julian Olschwang of Los Angeles. Olschwang won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *Talk to the Hand; An AI-Powered Assistive ASL-Translating Glove for the Sign Language-Reliant Population*. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is an achievement that crowns five years’ worth of research and hard work,” said Julian Olschwang. “I am extremely proud to be a part of the Davidson Fellows community, a group of people renowned for being dedicated changemakers, brilliant innovators, and beacons of light in our world. To me, being a Davidson Fellow is less about the prior work I’ve done to achieve the title, but rather about what I will do going forward to live up to the title. Personally, being a Davidson Fellow is about embodying the collective values of the Davidson Fellows community and using my passions to exemplify those values in every opportunity I get.”

For his project, Olschwang developed an assistive glove designed to empower individuals who rely on sign language by enabling them to communicate more effectively in daily life. The glove features dynamic motion sensors and an AI network that provides real-time translation of sign language into text on the user’s smartphone. This innovation addresses the significant communication barriers faced by the 72 million sign language users worldwide, who often encounter systemic inequities due to the general population’s lack of understanding of sign language. His project, *Talk to the Hand*, facilitates seamless and organic communication between sign language users and others.

Olschwang is an incoming first-year student at Carnegie Mellon University, where he will study electrical and computer engineering. Outside of his research, Olschwang enjoys staying active and making memories with friends. In high school, he played varsity basketball and was a member of the varsity swim team. In his free time, he enjoys exploring his interests, including music mixing as a DJ.

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"This year's class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients exemplifies the power of innovation and perseverance," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "Our Fellows continue to push the boundaries of their educational and research pursuits, striving to solve some of the world's most challenging problems by leveraging creative, outside-the-box thinking and cutting-edge technology to expand their networks, access new sources of information, and deliver an impressive array of diverse projects."

The 2024 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 2024.

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 \$9.9 million in scholarship funds to 448 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 2024 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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