



For Immediate Release  
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## **NEW YORK-AREA TEENS AWARDED \$225,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE, MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Justin Bernstein, Jinan Laurentia Woo and Amy Xiao**

**Each Awarded \$50,000 Scholarships**

**Mythreya Dharani, Abhay Gupta and DaJeong Won**

**Each Awarded \$25,000 Scholarships**

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**NEW YORK** — Six students from across the New York metropolitan area — representing New York, New Jersey and Connecticut — have been named 2025 Davidson Fellows, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for students 18 and younger. They will share \$225,000 in scholarships as part of the program's 25th anniversary year, which is awarding a record \$825,000 to 21 students nationwide.

"I am honored to have been named a Davidson Fellow and am now inspired to continue using science to create the solutions necessary to ensure the safety and health of our society," said Justin Bernstein, a 17-year-old of Greenwich, Conn. "As a Davidson Fellow, I'm proud to be part of a group that refuses to accept the world as it is and I look forward to continuing to ask questions, challenge limits, and build a future grounded in evidence and discovery."

### **Justin Bernstein, 17, of Greenwich, Conn. — \$50,000 Scholarship, Science**

Bernstein, a first-year Yale University student, designed a bioengineering approach to slow the melting of Arctic ice by enhancing its reflective surface. His project uses genetically modified cold-resistant bacteria, known as cryobacteria, to increase the ice's albedo, reflecting more sunlight and reducing heat absorption. This technique could help mitigate climate change – induced sea level rise.

### **Jinan Laurentia Woo, 18, of Englewood Cliffs, N.J. — \$50,000 Scholarship, Music**

Woo, a first-year Yale University student, created a multimedia project that bridges traditional classical music with contemporary performance styles to make the art form more accessible and relevant. Through original compositions, reinterpretations of historical works, and community engagement, her work challenges audiences to overcome resistance to change while honoring classical music's legacy.

### **Amy Xiao, 18, of Garden City, N.Y. — \$50,000 Scholarship, Science**

Xiao, a first-year Yale University student, investigated citrin, a protein involved in cell metabolism, as a potential therapeutic target for cancer treatment. By combining clinical, pharmacologic and metabolic data, she identified pathways that could be leveraged to disrupt cancer cell growth, paving the way for new targeted therapies.

Additional \$25,000 Scholarship Recipients:

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- **Mythreya Dharani, Paramus, N.J. — Technology:** Identifying robust metabolomics signatures for multi-scale stratification of Alzheimer's disease patients into clinically relevant subgroups with AutoSGI.
- **Abhay Gupta, Hopewell, N.Y. — Technology:** EnDive: A Cross-Dialect Benchmark for Fairness and Performance in Large Language Models.
- **DaJeong Won, Ridgefield, N.J. — Science:** The Effect of Calcium Containing Substrates on Coral Growth.

“For 25 years, the Davidson Fellows Scholarship has recognized some of the most remarkable research undertaken by young people in the nation,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “The 2025 class of Fellows continues to raise the bar for achievement as we celebrate this milestone year, marked by innovation, perseverance and the hundreds of alumni whose work continues to make a lasting difference in their fields and communities.”

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers 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 \$10.7 million in scholarship funds to 469 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 2025 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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