



For Immediate Release
September 14, 2026

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NEW YORK CITY AREA TEENS AWARDED \$125,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

**Praadhyumn Indaana and Austin Jin Each Awarded \$50,000 Scholarships
Julian Shapiro Awarded \$25,000 Scholarship**

NEW YORK — Three New York City area teens have been named 2026 Davidson Fellows, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for students 18 and younger. Praadhyumn Indaana of Montvale, New Jersey, Austin Jin of Great Neck and Julian Shapiro of New York City will share \$125,000 in scholarships.

Praadhyumn Indaana, 18, of Montvale, New Jersey — \$50,000 Scholarship, Science

For his project, Indaana developed a computer model to more accurately predict a critical safety limit for removing heat from nuclear reactor fuel rods. The model learns from more than 10,000 experiments while incorporating established principles of physics, reducing average prediction error from about 63 percent to 5.5 percent compared with conventional formulas. More accurate predictions could help nuclear power plants operate more efficiently while maintaining important safety standards.

"To be named a Davidson Fellow is an incredible honor and an enormous boost of encouragement," Indaana said. "A question I posed in class became eight months of sitting at a desk in my house, and to have an organization focused on students engaged in meaningful research recognize me for that is very humbling. Above all, it affirms that asking questions and following them down deep paths is worth it, and it motivates me to do even more."

Austin Jin, 16, of Great Neck, New York — \$50,000 Scholarship, Science

For his project, Jin developed M CATCH, a diagnostic platform designed to detect tuberculosis and identify drug resistant mutations using a blood sample rather than the sputum samples required by many existing tests. The system uses CRISPR technology and a small chip to test for multiple mutations at once. Jin's approach could make tuberculosis testing more accessible for children, immunocompromised patients and people in areas with limited laboratory resources.

"Being named a Davidson Fellow is a tremendous honor, and I'm extremely grateful for the generous support, which inspires me to continue pursuing science and medicine," Jin said. "I am motivated to continue building and experimenting to help as many patients as possible."

Julian Shapiro, 18, of New York City — \$25,000 Scholarship, Science

For his project, Shapiro discovered three nearby dwarf galaxies that are isolated but no longer forming young stars, an unusual combination that challenges scientists' understanding of galaxy formation. His research suggests the galaxies may have once passed near a much larger

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galaxy before moving back into isolation. The findings could help researchers test theories about how galaxies form and evolve as new astronomical surveys uncover more of these rare objects.

“It is an incredible honor to be selected as a Davidson Fellow and to join a community of ambitious, creative young individuals,” Shapiro said. “It means a lot to receive recognition for the dedication I have put into this project, and it inspires me to further deepen my research in astrophysics and cosmology.”

“The Davidson Fellows continue to demonstrate what young people can accomplish when curiosity, determination and innovation come together,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “The 2026 Fellows have pursued challenging questions and developed meaningful work with the potential to make a lasting difference in their fields and communities. We are proud to recognize their extraordinary achievements.”

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 \$11.4 million in scholarship funds to 490 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 2026 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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