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## **WASHINGTON TEENS AWARDED \$150,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND MUSIC**

**Aditya Sengupta Awarded \$100,000 Laureate Scholarship  
Khaos Kook and Bryan Zhu Each Awarded \$25,000 Scholarships**

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**SEATTLE** — Three Washington teens have been named 2026 Davidson Fellows, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for students 18 and younger. Aditya Sengupta and Bryan Zhu of Bellevue and Khaos Kook of Shoreline will share \$150,000 in scholarships.

### **Aditya Sengupta, 18, of Bellevue — \$100,000 Laureate Scholarship, Science**

For his project, Sengupta developed ForeCAT, a system that uses machine learning and atmospheric data to predict the likelihood and severity of clear air turbulence, which occurs without visible clouds or storms. Better predictions could help pilots and airlines avoid dangerous conditions and improve the safety and comfort of air travel.

"Being named a Davidson Fellow is an incredible honor because it gives me the opportunity to join a community of young people who are curious, ambitious and passionate about using their ideas to improve lives," Sengupta said. "I am excited to learn from this community, share ideas with peer Fellows and carry that spirit of curiosity and inquiry into the next stage of my journey."

### **Khaos Kook, 18, of Shoreline — \$25,000 Scholarship, Music**

Motivated by a serious head injury that forced him to reconsider his identity as a musician, Kook explored how musicians and newcomers can remain deeply engaged with music through listening, historical research, score study, scientific inquiry, teaching, advocacy and other forms of participation. Drawing on his own recovery, Kook also developed an evidence-based return-to-instrument protocol designed to provide structured support for musicians returning to their instruments after a concussion.

"Being named a Davidson Fellow in Music is especially meaningful to me because my work was born from a period of my life when a serious head injury left me without access to classical music," Kook said. "The fellowship provides valuable affirmation that adversity can be turned into a powerful source of inquiry."

### **Bryan Zhu, 18, of Bellevue — \$25,000 Scholarship, Mathematics**

For his project, Zhu adapted a mathematical technique called color refinement to make complex optimization problems smaller without changing their solutions. He also applied the method to polynomial optimization and certain machine learning datasets. By identifying hidden patterns and removing unnecessary information, his approach can reduce computing time and memory requirements.

“I’m honored to be named a 2026 Davidson Fellow for my work,” Zhu said. “This recognition means a lot to me because it celebrates both the mathematical results and the broader potential I see in my work.”

“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](#)