



For Immediate Release
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SHREVEPORT TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR PRESSURE INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM

Maya Trutschl Named 2026 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

SHREVEPORT, La. — Maya Trutschl, 18, of Shreveport, has been awarded a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for the engineering project, *Automated Prediction and Prevention of Pressure Injuries Using Machine Learning and Thermal Sensing: A Clinical Validation Study*. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is one of the nation's most prestigious honors for students 18 and younger.

"I am profoundly honored to be recognized as a Davidson Fellow and to become part of such an inspiring community of curious, dedicated young people," Trutschl said. "This achievement motivates me to continue pursuing research, and I hope it encourages other students to chase even the smallest questions that fascinate them."

For her project, Trutschl developed a system that combines machine learning and thermal sensing to predict and help prevent pressure injuries in patients who remain in one position for extended periods. A computer model identifies patients at risk using routine hospital data, while a thermal camera costing less than \$130 monitors patient positioning and alerts caregivers when repositioning is needed. In more than 150 hours of testing in a hospital intensive care unit, the system tracked patient positioning with more than 99 percent accuracy.

Trutschl is a first year student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she plans to study aerospace engineering or computer science and continue building intelligent systems that solve meaningful problems. In high school, she founded a Girls Who Code club to bring computer science education to local middle school girls. She also leads The Unity Network, an international research mentoring organization that provides high school students with free resources, mentorship and opportunities to prepare for science competitions.

"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](#)*