



For Immediate Release
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WEXFORD TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR PANCREATIC CANCER DETECTION RESEARCH

Audrey Zheng Named 2026 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

WEXFORD, Pa. — Audrey Zheng, 17, of Wexford, has been awarded a \$50,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for the science project, *Targeted Isolation of Tumor Derived Extracellular Vesicles Using a Cocktail of Magnetic Nanospheres for Minimally Invasive Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis*. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is one of the nation's most prestigious honors for students 18 and younger.

"Being named a Davidson Fellow is an incredible honor," Zheng said. "I'm immensely grateful for this opportunity and excited to join such a passionate community of young innovators who share that same curiosity and drive. This recognition inspires me to continue taking on challenging problems that can improve people's lives."

For her project, Zheng developed a blood test for detecting pancreatic cancer. Her method uses magnetic nanospheres equipped with three cancer recognizing antibodies to selectively capture extracellular vesicles released by pancreatic cancer cells. Her findings could contribute to earlier and more accessible pancreatic cancer detection.

Zheng, a rising first year student at Stanford University, enjoys using her interests to address problems that matter to people. In high school, she founded The Food Lounge Pittsburgh, a student led organization that brings young people together to support local food distributions, soup kitchens and senior communities.

"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.

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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](#)