



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

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**SAN RAMON TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR LITERARY
PORTFOLIO EXPLORING THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF LIFE AND HER
CHINESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE**
Mackenzie Duan Named 2023 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

San Francisco – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2023 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 16-year-old Mackenzie Duan of San Ramon. Duan won a \$10,000 scholarship for her project, *Circles: The Irresolution of Repetition*. She is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2023 scholarship winner.

“To me, being a Davidson Fellow represents, broadly, the degree of devotion that you have towards others and the world,” said Duan. “I am incredibly grateful to be included in this year’s cohort among such extraordinary people.”

Influenced by a combination of literature, political philosophy, and her own experiences, Duan's project investigates the cyclical nature of life. Her project, a hybrid portfolio of prose, poetry, and screenplay, examines the unresolved friction of language and memory moving in circular patterns, relating to alternative futurities, Chinese-American histories, and the act of translation.

Duan is a rising senior, attending Dougherty Valley High School and Stanford Online High School. In the future she intends to study literature, philosophy, anthropology, or economics. Outside of academics, Duan enjoys playing the piano, trombone and singing in a local choir. Duan is also an avid reader. She enjoys spending time with friends and working on adapting one of her screenplays into a short film.

“We are proud to announce this year’s class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients who have completed significant projects with the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature, and music,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “The innovations and new thinking added by each class of Fellows serve as an inspiration for future scholars to apply novel technologies and groundbreaking ideas to solve the world’s most difficult problems.”

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The 2023 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2023.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 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 \$9.4 million in scholarship funds to 428 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 2023 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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