



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

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VIENNA TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCING ONLINE MACHINE LEARNING THROUGH INNOVATIVE MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Ethan Zhou Named 2023 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Washington, D.C. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2023 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Ethan Zhou of Vienna, Va. Zhou won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *Online Learning of Smooth Functions*. He is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2023 scholarship winner.

“I’m honored to be named a Davidson Fellow for my work in math,” said Zhou. “It gives me confidence in my ability to pursue my interest in applied math, even when I don’t always know where that pursuit will take me.”

Intrigued by the powerful potential of mathematics when applied to real-world problems, Zhou developed a novel approach to online learning, focusing on making predictions based on data that appears over time. His work has shown how simple algorithms can quickly make accurate predictions. Although this project considers an ideal model of learning, it offers tools for algorithm testing and improves our understanding of learning models, potentially leading to wider applications.

Zhou is a first-year student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In his spare time, Zhou indulges in a variety of activities, such as participating in math competitions, volunteering as a math teacher at a local Chinese school, playing the piano and studying science.

“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](#)