



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

For Immediate Release
August 15, 2023

Contact: Megan Bedera
775-997-5690
Megan@AmplifyRelations.com

Portland Teen Awarded \$25,000 Scholarship For Creation Of Astigmatism Diagnostic Optometry Device Alexander Plekhanov Named 2023 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Portland, Ore. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2023 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Alexander Plekhanov of Portland, Oregon. Plekhanov won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *Skew-Axis Cylinder Lens Optical System: Physical Properties, Application for Novel Method of Clinical Optometry of Astigmatism, and Engineering Implementation*. He is one of only 21 students across the country to be recognized as a 2023 scholarship winner.

“For me, as a young scientist and inventor, this recognition affirms that my ideas and efforts have the potential to make a positive impact on society,” said Plekhanov. “The Davidson Institute has provided me with a platform to showcase my work and contribute to the scientific community. I hope that it will also connect me with like-minded individuals who share a commitment to innovation and discovery.”

Astigmatism affects the vision of approximately 30 percent of the global population. For his project, Plekhanov invented a diagnostic method, the Skew-Axis Cylinder Lens Optical System (SACLOS), to make astigmatism optometry quicker, more accurate, affordable, and user-friendly, potentially revolutionizing optometric practices and enhancing the quality of life for millions of people. His invention uses two independently rotating cylindrical lenses and a simple computer mouse, allowing patients to intuitively determine their required vision correction.

Plekhanov is a first-year student at the California Institute of Technology where he plans to study physics. In addition to his academic achievements, Plekhanov has twice been honored with the First Place Grand Award at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and is actively engaged in various community service projects, including building an airworthy two-seater airplane for charity. In his free time, he enjoys reading, skiing, and rock climbing.

“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

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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.”

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](#)