

For Immediate Release
August 22, 2017



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SAN DIEGO TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE ALTERNATIVE **Anthony Kang to be Named a 2017 Davidson Fellow**

Reno, Nev. – The Davidson Institute of Talent Development has announced the 2017 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Anthony Kang of San Diego. Kang won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *New Antibacterials: Conjugation-Mediated Transmission of Cytotoxic Genes for Targeted Bacterial Cell*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“Being a Davidson Fellow is a great honor to me that serves both as an incredible opportunity and a positive affirmation of the academic endeavors and directions that I strive to pursue,” said Kang.

Kang’s project developed an alternative strategy for killing antibiotic resistant bacterial infections from conventional antibiotics. The primary challenge of treating bacterial infections is the ability of infectious bacteria to become resistant to medications and drugs. In infections, genes that encode antibiotic resistance are often shared from bacterium to bacterium through conjugation. It is through conjugation that antibiotic resistance spreads within an infection like a wildfire. Kang’s research takes advantage of conjugation as a delivery system to transmit custom bactericidal genes into infectious populations, much like a Trojan Horse.

In addition to his interest in science, Kang has been a dedicated competitive swimmer for much of his life. He served as varsity captain on his high school swim team and has competed in numerous championships and meets up to the semi-national level. Kang is also an avid cellist, performing in various ensembles with friends and musical peers. Recently he has been experimenting with electric cello and more contemporary styles of music.

Kang will attend Northwestern University in the fall, where he will be a part of the Honors Program in Medical Education. He plans to study cognitive science and science in human culture.

“We are thrilled to recognize the 2017 Davidson Fellows not only for their incredible projects, but also for the journey they forged to reach this point,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “Every year I am amazed by the depth of the Fellows’ accomplishments. Through encouragement and recognition, the Davidson Institute for Talent Development anticipates that gifted students like these will be among the pioneers who will solve the world’s most vexing problems.”

The 2017 Davidson Fellows will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C., on September 27.

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 \$7.1 million in scholarship funds to more than 300 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 for Talent Development, 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 for Talent Development 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 2017 Davidson Fellows, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship.

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High-resolution photos are available at www.DavidsonGifted.org.