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TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 FOR PORTFOLIO EXPLORING GENOCIDE
Carissa Chen to be Named a 2017 Davidson Fellow Laureate

Reno, Nev. – The Davidson Institute of Talent Development has announced the 2017 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Carissa Chen. Chen won a \$50,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *Afterimages of Atrocity – Humanizing the Self and the State*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I’m passionate about the ways that human-centered design can solve social or political issues. I research and create because I believe a better future can be designed by honoring the past,” said Chen. “Being selected as a Davidson Fellow is an incredible honor and I feel so humbled by what my peers have accomplished. It encourages me to continue my research and create, write, and work more.”

Chen’s portfolio takes an interdisciplinary approach to answer three main questions: What causes atrocities to occur? What can prevent these atrocities from occurring in the future? How do we remember genocide? Her answer to all three centers around communication, language, history, literature, and art.

During her four years at Phillips Exeter Academy, Chen went through extensive visual arts training in painting and photography. Her work has been or will be featured at The White House, The Kennedy Center Hall of Nations, the Carnegie Hall and Times Square screens, HUBWeek Boston, among others.

Chen will attend Harvard University in the fall. She hopes to continue designing projects, policies, art, code, and writing to better the world around her.

“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](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org). 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.