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## **HOUSTON TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 FOR CREATIVE WRITING PORTFOLIO** **Maria “Irene” Vazquez to be Named a 2017 Davidson Fellow**

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Reno, Nev. – The Davidson Institute of Talent Development has announced the 2017 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Irene Vazquez of Houston. Vazquez won a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *Ebb and Flow: Translating Lives in Transition*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is a tremendous honor,” said Vazquez. “It allows me the financial flexibility to pursue my education and fulfill my artistic and career goals.”

Vazquez’s project is a writing portfolio centered around the theme of translation. In today’s increasingly diverse America, she says we cannot afford to live a life untranslated and that we are living in a culture of separation, and must take active steps to understand one another. Vazquez’s body of work is a study in translation. Her work implores people to reach across distances, break down barriers of any kind.

Vazquez has a wide range of interests, including poetry, theater, and politics. She’s currently interning with Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher of District 7, and is interested in learning more about the political process. She was also on Teen Jeopardy in eighth grade, and hopes to see her ideas come to life Off-Broadway within the next ten years.

Vazquez will attend Yale University in the fall.

“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](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship).

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*High-resolution photos are available at [www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org).*