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SANDY TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR ENGINEERING RECHARGEABLE BATTERY POLYMER **Kathy Liu 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 Kathy Liu of Sandy. Liu won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *Nature-Based Solid Polymer Electrolytes for Improved Safety, Sustainability and Efficiency in High-Performance Rechargeable Batteries*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is an incredible honor and has further inspired me to continue advancing the boundaries of what is possible,” said Liu. “It is humbling being recognized for my work among such varied and talented students across the nation, and I will definitely use the support from the Davidson Institute to explore even more, support others, and give back to my communities.”

Liu’s project develops a novel solid paste electrolyte based on natural materials to replace the liquids found in all rechargeable batteries. This eliminates battery flammability concerns, enables flexible batteries that do not need bulky protective casing, and opens the route to realizing next-generation battery chemistries. This work helps pave the path toward higher performing batteries that are lighter, more powerful, flexible, and much safer.

Liu is a Lincoln-Douglas debater and a violinist in the Utah Youth Orchestras and Ensembles. She loves skiing, running, and hiking in the Utah mountains.

Liu will attend Stanford University in the fall. She is considering a major in materials science and engineering or chemistry. She aspires to research cutting edge technologies and possibly combine them with entrepreneurial applications.

“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.