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NASHUA TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR ANALYSIS OF CARBON TAX POLICIES

Mary Zhu 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 Mary Zhu of Nashua. Zhu won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *Impact of Carbon Tax Policies on the Global Agricultural Economy: A Computational Spatial Partial Equilibrium Modeling Approach*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“Being named a Davidson Fellow is an enormous honor and I am incredibly grateful to the Davidson Institute for this scholarship,” said Zhu. “I hope to use it to pursue a career in economics research and to contribute to society in this way.”

Zhu modeled the trade-offs and impacts of enforcing a carbon tax proposed in the U.S. Senate during the negotiation of the Paris Agreement in 2015. She analyzed three scenarios in which all, some, or none of the world’s countries enact the tax. Using linear programming, she conducted comparative analyses and projections on the international agricultural trade of 11 commodities and 17 countries/regions between the years 2012 and 2050. The model’s accuracy and flexibility renders it a potentially powerful tool for analyzing a wide range of public policies.

In high school, Zhu was the founder and president of the Social Studies Honor Society and president of the Math Honors Society. She was voted as her school’s student representative to the Nashua City Board of Education and student government class president in her junior year. Zhu is also interested in giving back to her community, and founded a trademarked nonprofit called A Little Peace of Cake and raised more than \$7,000 for World Vision International’s Child Sponsorship Program by selling homemade desserts. She is currently using the funds to sponsor four children in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and the Dominican Republic.

Zhu will attend Stanford University in the fall where she will major in economics with a financial track and a computational emphasis.

“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.