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TOWER LAKES TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR RESEARCH UNCOVERING DARK GALAXIES

Pranav Sivakumar 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 17-year-old Pranav Sivakumar of Tower Lakes. Sinha won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *Searches for Almost Dark Galaxies in Blank Sky Fields with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I am honored to be selected as a Davidson Fellow and know I am in very good company,” said Sivakumar. “My endeavors are a small step in the eternal human pursuit of three fundamental questions – ‘where do we come from?’, ‘what are we?’, and ‘where are we going?’.”

The universe is constantly expanding, and scientists have theorized that this expansion depends on two mysterious phenomena: dark matter and dark energy. A class of low-mass galaxies known as Almost Dark Galaxies (ADGs), which are dominated by dark matter and contain little to no starlight, are the ideal laboratories to study the mystery of dark matter. In his research, Sivakumar developed two novel approaches for detection of ADGs in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS), one of the most comprehensive sky surveys. These methods not only identified two known ADGs, Leo P and AGC 198691, but also discovered several possible dark galaxies which could provide new insights into dark matter.

In addition to Sivakumar’s scientific interests, he enjoys learning about history, literature and the arts through quiz competitions. He also enjoys playing piano and composing classical music.

Sivakumar will attend the University of California, Berkeley in the fall, where he plans to study astronomy.

“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.