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SARATOGA TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 FOR DISEASE DETECTING SMARTPHONE APP
Rishab Gargeya 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 Rishab Gargeya of Saratoga, Calif. Gargeya won a \$50,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *EyeLogic: All-Purpose Vision Disease Detection in Clinic-Sourced and Low-Cost Smartphone-Based Retinal Images*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I am honored to be a Davidson Fellow Laureate. This accolade further validates the work that I have done for the last few years and motivates me to continue innovating in the future,” said Gargeya. “I am always excited at opportunities to share my work, and am very optimistic for the future.”

Over 250 million people around the world suffer from various eye diseases, like glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, leading to permanent vision impairment over time. Lack of access to basic eye care has left millions blind, with 80 percent of all vision-degenerative disease cases either preventable or curable if detected early.

Gargeya’s work circumvents the need for a clinician altogether by creating an automated smartphone-based application that can detect any symptomatic pathology in the retina from a retinal scan. Through the use of a low-cost external lens attachment, individuals can diagnose themselves in seconds, accurately monitoring their own vision and seeking out medical attention accordingly.

In high school, Gargeya was the co-editor-in-chief of a peer reviewed student science research journal, and a member of the competitive debate team. He is also an avid retro video game collector, and he has pursued interests in piano and playing squash.

Gargeya will attend Stanford University in the fall, where he plans to study computer science. His interests lie in medicine, research, and artificial intelligence, with his free time usually being spent reading the latest scientific publications in deep learning.

“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 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.