Contacts:
Alli Williams, Amplify Relations
775-453-0618
alli@amplifyrelations.com
Melissa Reed, Davidson Institute
775-852-3483 x. 425 (PT)
mreed@davidsongifted.org

For Immediate Release
August 22, 2017

BRONX TEEN AWARDED $10,000 FOR PROJECT IN CONVERTING WASTE TO ELECTRICITY
Vera Zarubin 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 16-year-old Vera Zarubin of Bronx. Zarubin won a $10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *A Novel Methodology To Build Organic Thermoelectric Materials For Sustainable And Renewable Energy Applications*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

"My recognition as a 2017 Davidson Fellow represents a milestone in my journey as an innovator, a researcher, and a student," said Zarubin. "While I have presented my work at science fairs and research conferences, becoming a Davidson Fellow provides a unique opportunity to communicate my ideas and make a positive impact on a larger scale."

Zarubin's project focuses on developing a method to fabricate conducting polymers that convert waste heat to electricity associated with the thermoelectric effect. Conducting polymers combine the soft mechanical properties of conventional polymers and the unique electronic properties of metals or semiconductors. In this study, Zarubin discovered that colloidal conducting polymers can form nanostructured thin films with enhanced thermoelectric properties when fabricated under magnetic fields. The new fabrication method eliminates cost concerns, enables more controllable structural features for functional materials, and opens the route to realizing next-generation organic electronics.

Outside of her scientific interest, Zarubin is an avid clarinetist. She performs at Carnegie Hall's Studio 57 and plays for seniors through Concerts in Motion. She is also an athlete and enjoys running, and has been an active equestrian for 10 years.

Zarubin is a rising senior at Bronx High School of Science. In the future, she hopes to pursue a degree in physics or applied mathematics.

"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.

###

High-resolution photos are available at www.DavidsonGifted.org.