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FALLS CHURCH TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 FOR SOLVING 100 YEAR OLD MATH PROBLEM **Franklyn Wang to be Named a 2018 Davidson Fellow**

Falls Church, Va. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2018 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Franklyn Wang of Falls Church. He won a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *Monodromy Groups of Indecomposable Rational Functions*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“Being recognized as a Davidson Fellow is a vindication of the value of my work,” said Wang. “For the past two years I’ve been working hard on my project about monodromy groups of indecomposable rational functions.”

Wang’s interest in mathematics led him to investigate a problem that has puzzled mathematicians for almost 100 years. Using a combination of methods from combinatorics, algebraic geometry, and topology, Wang potentially solved the problem. Wang’s findings have broad potential applications, from creating faster and more secure algorithms for communication to building safer infrastructure, like bridges.

Wang is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. He participated in USA Math Olympiad Summer Program, USA Computing Olympiad, was a Regeneron STS Finalist and Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Finalist. Wang also served as captain of his school’s National Science Bowl team, which placed second at the national competition in 2015 and 2017. Outside of math and science, Wang enjoys watching the New England Patriots and listening to Taylor Swift’s music.

Wang will attend Harvard College to pursue degrees in math and computer science. He plans to become a researcher in math, computer science or economics, using artificial intelligence and machine learning to solve problems facing mankind.

“We are thrilled to recognize the 2018 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 2018 Davidson Fellows will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C., on Friday, September 28.

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 \$7.5 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 2018 Davidson Fellows, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship.

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High-resolution photos are available at www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship.