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## **POTOMAC TEEN AWARDED \$ 10,000 FOR PROJECT THAT ADDRESSES ACUTE MALNUTRITION**

**Garyk Brixi to be Named a 2018 Davidson Fellow**

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Potomac, Md. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2018 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Garyk Brixi of Potomac. Brixi won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for his project, *Innovative Optimization of Ready to Use Food for Acute Malnutrition Treatment*. He is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I am proud to be named a Davidson Fellow and be part of this community of dedicated peers,” said Brixi. “It gives me joy to be recognized for my work and gives me further hope that research to better address malnutrition will draw the required support to save more children around the world.

Malnutrition kills more than 3 million children every year. Brixi’s project researched the cost-effectiveness of malnutrition treatment and prevention with the hope that more children can be saved from starvation. Brixi developed a novel programming tool, which was applied to Nigeria and Malawi, to optimize formulae for malnutrition treatment or prevention at lower cost. He found that his tool can optimize different formulae for different local contexts, facilitating local production of specialized nutritious food and this promoting local agriculture, malnutrition prevention and sustainable development.

At Winston Churchill High School, Brixi is president of the National Honor Society, co-founder of the Science Bowl Club and president of the Biology Club. Aside from biology and chemistry, he is interested in understanding how historical trends continue to shape the world. He also loves to ski and hike.

“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](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship).

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*High-resolution photos are available at [www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship).*