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CLOSTER TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR RESEARCH QUANTIFYING THE EFFECTS OF THE ORPHAN DRUG ACT

Nicole Moiseyev to be Named a 2018 Davidson Fellow

Closter, N.J. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2018 Davidson Fellows. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Nicole Moiseyev. Moiseyev won a \$10,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, *The Effects of the Orphan Drug Act on Rare Disease Research and Drug Development: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to receive this honor.

“I am both honored and thrilled to have been named a Davidson Fellow,” said Moiseyev. “Even more so than the scholarship itself, the recognition awarded to me for my research encourages me to continue pursuing projects such as this one with equal vigor and dedication throughout my undergraduate years and beyond.”

Inspiration for Moiseyev’s project stemmed from an unlikely source—like thousands of girls her age, she is a rabid fan of the hit series *Grey’s Anatomy*. In the United States alone, 10 percent of people suffer from the nearly 7,000 rare diseases identified thus far—totaling more than 25 million Americans. However, there are less than 500 drugs for rare diseases, implying most remain untreated. Moreover, the average price for such a drug is more than four times the cost of other diseases’ treatments. Propelled by her fascination with rare diseases, she took advantage of several opportunities for biological research in high school. She discovered the Orphan Drug Act (ODA), which provides companies with economic incentives to develop drugs for rare diseases could help solve this problem. Fascinated by the concept of the ODA, she conducted her research project to quantify the law’s effects.

Moiseyev is a rising first year student at Duke University. She hopes to pursue a career in medicine while training to become a physician and help conduct clinical trial research on rare diseases, so she can learn how to lead such research herself one day.

“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.