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**CUPERTINO TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 FOR DEVELOPING METHOD TO PREDICT CANCER
TYPES FOR USE IN FUTURE TARGETED TREATMENTS**
Cynthia Chen to be Named a 2019 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner

Cupertino, Calif. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2019 Davidson Fellows Scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Cynthia Chen of Cupertino. Chen won a \$50,000 scholarship for her project, *Decoding Neural Networks: Novel Computational Methods to Discover Anti-Tumor B Cell Receptor Binding Motifs*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a scholarship winner.

“I am truly honored and humbled to be named a 2019 Davidson Fellow,” said Chen. “Receiving this award means a lot to me, and I am extremely grateful to the Davidson Institute for their support of my academic and scientific pursuits.”

Chen’s research is an important first step towards a better understanding of deep learning models that are used in cancer research. The computational pipeline she developed not only provides a novel framework for decoding sequence-based deep neural networks but also identifies the genetic signatures of multiple types of cancers. Chen’s work could help reduce the time and cost of developing more effective and targeted cancer treatments for patients.

Chen is the founder of Opportunity X (OpportunityX.org), a student-led nonprofit that runs weekly research programs at underrepresented middle schools and has held 180+ workshops at nine middle schools across multiple states. Outside of science, Chen loves art and drawing the world around her.

Chen will start her senior year of high school at The Harker School in San Jose in the fall, after which, she hopes to further explore the field of computational biology and combine her love for math, computer science, and biology to develop innovative technologies for combating terminal diseases.

“We are proud to announce the 2019 Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients and applaud them for their hard work and achievement in their fields of study,” said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. “By being awarded this recognition, these students have shown immense skill and work ethic, and they should be commended as they continue their educational and research journeys while continuing to work to solve some of the world’s most vexing problems.”

The 2019 Davidson Fellows will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C., on Friday, September 27, 2019.

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 2019 Davidson Fellows, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship.

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