

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **WESTCHESTER TEENS RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNMATCHED ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Isha Puri to be awarded \$25,000 as a 2019 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner,  
Vishnu Polkampally to be awarded \$10,000 as a 2019 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner, and  
Brian Wu to be awarded \$10,000 as a 2019 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner**

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Yonkers, N.Y. – The Davidson Institute for Talent Development has announced the 2019 Davidson Fellows Scholarship winners. Among the honorees are **Isha Puri**, 18, of Chappaqua; **Vishnu Akash Polkampally**, 17, of Ossining; and **Brian Wu**, 17, of Scarsdale. Only 20 students across the country are recognized as scholarship winners each year.

“I am extremely honored to be a Davidson Fellow,” said Puri, who will be attending Harvard University in the fall. “I am grateful for the opportunity to join such a dynamic community of change makers and creators, as well as for the support of the Davidson Institute for my education and future endeavors.”

Puri’s project, *A Scalable and Freely Accessible Machine Learning Based Application for the Early Detection of Dyslexia*, developed a novel combination of different machine learning algorithms to produce a highly accurate eye tracking method. Using a computer’s standard webcam, Puri’s application can predict if a child has a higher risk of dyslexia with a 90.18 percent accuracy. Dyslexia is the world’s most common neurological learning disability, affecting one in every 10 people worldwide, so an early diagnosis can significantly reduce learning difficulties later in life.

Vishnu Polkampally’s project, *Utilizing Sugar derived Glassy Matrices to Test a Controversial Mechanism for N2O3 Production within the Red Blood Cell*, studied how the nitric oxide produced by red blood cells leave the blood cells to dilate the blood vessels. His work could mean a significant step forward in treating chronic inflammatory diseases by delivering the nitric oxide to targeted sites of inflammation. Polkampally plans to continue his studies at Case Western in the fall.

Wu’s project, *Tatooine Found! Discovery and Characterization of the First-Ever Circumbinary Planet Detected Using Doppler Spectroscopy*, identified a planet very similar to Tatooine from the Star Wars movies, and he developed a confirmation system to prove the planet’s existence. His work in advancing the field of radial velocity astronomy will increase the number of stellar companions discovered using this method. Wu, a rising senior at the Horace Mann School in Bronx, N.Y., feels strongly that finding planets capable of supporting life will be critical should Earth become uninhabitable, and plans to continue his work in astronomy.

“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](http://www.DavidsonAcademy.org). For more information about the 2019 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).*