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## **MUNSTER TEEN AWARDED \$50,000 FOR ADVANCEMENTS IN UNDERSTANDING GENE FUNCTIONS IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**

### **Annie Ostojic to be Named a 2020 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner**

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Munster, Ind. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2020 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Annie Ostojic of Munster. Ostojic won a \$50,000 scholarship for her project, *Targeting Cancer via Signaling Pathways: A Novel Approach to the Discovery of Gene CCDC191's Double-Agent Function using Differential Gene Expression, Heat Map Analyses through AI Deep Learning, and Mathematical Modeling*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a scholarship winner.

“I am honored and grateful to have been chosen as a Davidson Fellow Laureate for my bioinformatics cancer research project,” said Ostojic. “I am humbled by Davidson Institute’s award as I know it provides encouragement and support for completion of my scientific academic endeavors.”

Ostojic’s research created a novel approach utilizing artificial intelligence and mathematical modeling to determine gene functions, leading to her discovery of gene CCDC191’s unknown double-agent functionality as both a tumor suppressor and oncogene in an aberrant part of the Pi3K pathway for breast cancer patients. Her research is significant in its newly designed process of analyzing bioinformatic heat maps for faster, more reliable gene function determinations in specific biological pathways.

Ostojic will be attending Stanford University in the fall where she hopes to continue developing her passion for STEM and dedicate her career to creating solutions that help society.

“We are proud to announce the 2020 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 2020 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a digital reception on September 30, 2020.

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 \$8.2 million in scholarship funds to 366 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 2020 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).*