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SAN DIEGO TEENS RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNMATCHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Jessie Gan and Emily Tianshi each to be awarded \$25,000 as 2020 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winners

San Diego – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2020 scholarship winners. Among the honorees are **Jessie Gan**, 16, and **Emily Tianshi**, 16, both of San Diego. Only 20 students across the country are recognized as scholarship winners each year.

“I’m extremely grateful to the Davidson Institute and truly honored to have been selected as a Davidson Fellow,” said Gan, a rising senior at the San Diego Jewish Academy. “It represents that my work is being recognized and given a platform, which can lead to it making a difference in the world, every scientists’ dream.”

Metastasis, or the migration of cancerous cells to other areas of the body, is the cause of approximately 90 percent of all cancer deaths. By applying physics to a biological problem, Gan developed a technique to measure the difference in stickiness between cancer cells and non-cancer cell to determine which cells may metastasize.

“I am humbled to be named a 2020 Davidson Fellow and am honored to join a group of students I have looked up to for several years,” said Emily Tianshi, a rising senior at The Cambridge School in San Diego. “I am extraordinarily grateful to the Davidson Institute for their dedication to cultivating young scholars.”

Tianshi, inspired by the natural world and devoted to creating social impact, investigated the incredible moisture harvesting abilities Torrey pine tree needles. Using controlled harvesting tests and theoretical analysis, Tianshi fabricated a material and engineered a passive device biomimicking the unique features of the Torrey pine to harvest atmospheric moisture, a potential solution to fresh-water scarcity.

“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.

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