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**CLOSTER TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 FOR HER LITERARY PORTFOLIO EXPLORING
STORYTELLING TO PRESERVE IDENTITY OF FAMILY HISTORY**
Katherine Vandermel to be Named a 2020 Davidson Fellow Scholarship Winner

Closter, N.J. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2020 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 17-year-old Katherine Vandermel of Closter. Vandermel won a \$25,000 scholarship for her project, *The Language of Memory: Combating the Erasure of Self-Identity*. She is one of only 20 students across the country to be recognized as a scholarship winner.

“I’m incredibly honored to be named a Davidson Fellow at this stage of my academic career,” said Vandermel. “To be among such brilliant, intelligent, and innovative individuals is truly humbling and fulfilling.”

Vandermel’s portfolio examines how language is used as a tool to resist the erasure of memory and sense of self against trauma, marginalization, and illness, following her ancestors living in a rural Dutch community during Nazi occupation, moving across three continents, and combating dementia.

Vandermel is a rising senior at Bergen County Academies where she is a candidate in the IB Diploma Programme. Vandermel plans to pursue a career as an author, furthering her interest in storytelling through art.

“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.