



For Immediate Release  
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**BEND TEEN AWARDED \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCEMENTS  
IN PHARMACEUTICAL MOLECULE DELIVERY  
TO ENHANCE DRUG EFFECTIVENESS  
Curran Jacobus Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner**

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Bend, Ore. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Curran Jacobus of Bend. Jacobus won a \$10,000 scholarship for his project, *Target Specific Development of Pseudo Natural Products Through the Combination of Natural Product Fragments*. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

“I am immensely grateful to the Davidson Institute for being named a 2024 Fellow,” said Curran Jacobus. “This opportunity is a springboard of empowerment for young talent to continue their endeavors towards advancing STEM and the arts. Personally, this acclaim reinforces my belief that young scientists can make real impacts, and that scientific communication is key to any research. The scholarship helps alleviate the financial demands of attending my dream school and allows me to pursue my education with more freedom and vigor.”

For his project, Jacobus developed a computational method to optimize the delivery of pharmaceutical molecules, addressing the challenge of ensuring medicines reach the right place in the body at the right time. This optimization is a significant factor in the high costs and lengthy timelines associated with bringing new drugs to market. His research combines two different classes of pharmaceutical molecules, each with distinct benefits, to create molecules that are both efficient in their delivery and quick to design. Additionally, his method leverages knowledge of the disease to design molecules that interact tightly with the biochemical causes of the disease, enhancing the effectiveness of the treatment.

Jacobus is an incoming first-year student at Stanford University, where he plans to continue his research in chemical engineering. Outside of his research, he is a fervent advocate for scientific communication. As an academic tutor and board member in local scientific journal clubs—both at the high school and university levels—he recognizes the imperative role that clarity and transparency play, both in the scientific community and in society as a whole. In his

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free time, he enjoys the many outdoor activities, including biking, hiking, and skiing, and is currently working toward his pilot's license.

"This year's class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients exemplifies the power of innovation and perseverance," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "Our Fellows continue to push the boundaries of their educational and research pursuits, striving to solve some of the world's most challenging problems by leveraging creative, outside-the-box thinking and cutting-edge technology to expand their networks, access new sources of information, and deliver an impressive array of diverse projects."

The 2024 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2024.

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 \$9.9 million in scholarship funds to 448 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, 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 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 2024 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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