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**RENO TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR DEVELOPING  
QUANTUM COMPUTING TECHNIQUE TO STUDY  
COMPLEX CHEMISTRY SIMULATIONS**  
**Eegan Ram Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner**

Reno, Nev. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 18-year-old Eegan Ram of Reno. Ram won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *Quantum Computation as a Game: Graph State Searching Protocols for Quantum Chemistry Simulations*. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

“Being a Davidson Fellow has made me more motivated than ever to continue my work in science, so that down the road we can create otherwise unforeseen technologies which serve everyone and make our lives more fulfilling,” said Eegan Ram. “To me, it serves as an important milestone which has shown me that experts have confidence in my abilities to be a substantive member in the scientific community.”

For his project, Ram developed a "middle-ground" solution to bridge the gap between conventional computing and quantum computing in simulating large molecules, a crucial task for protein simulation, drug development, and the creation of clean energy materials. Traditional computers struggle with the high computational complexity of these simulations, while theoretical quantum computers capable of handling them have yet to be fully realized. His approach combines conventional machine learning algorithms with quantum computing, enabling the calculation of the most stable molecular configurations with reasonable accuracy on today’s quantum computers, without requiring excessive computational resources or time.

Ram is an incoming first-year student at Stanford University with a passion for studying physics. He is active in his community, serving on the Reno Youth City Council and mentoring younger students in science. Additionally, Ram enjoys participating in cybersecurity contests and 3-D printing.

"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

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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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