

# Supporting Our Nation's Brightest Young People



Davidson Institute  
*for Talent Development*



## Overview

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing, nurturing and supporting profoundly gifted young people. Through its programs, the Davidson Institute helps profoundly intelligent students across the country develop their talents to make a positive difference.

## Who We Serve

The Davidson Institute serves young people ages 5 through 17 who score in the 99.9th percentile on intelligence and achievement tests. We provide support and resources to the families of profoundly intelligent youth and their educators.

# The Davidson Young Scholars program provides FREE services designed to nurture the intellectual development of profoundly gifted young people ages 5 through 17.

## Students and their families receive support in the following areas:

### Consulting Services

Parents collaborate with a skilled team of Family Consultants who provide individualized services based on each family's needs. Services include:

- **Educational Advocacy and Planning** – Help for parents and teachers to find an appropriate educational fit for their Young Scholar.
- **Talent and Interest Development** – Assistance with locating summer programs, local and distance learning options, enrichment opportunities and other educational needs.
- **Child and Adolescent Development** – Access to relevant resources and nationally recognized experts.

### Networking Opportunities

Students and parents can connect with other families who are sharing similar experiences through:

- **Annual Summit** – Young Scholars and their parents are invited to attend a special yearly event that hosts a variety of speakers, discussions and special activities.
- **Informal Regional Gatherings** – Parents frequently plan local get-togethers with other Young Scholar families in their area.
- **Online Community** – Access to Young Scholar parent and student networks through private discussion forums, chat rooms, electronic mailing lists and a website.



## To qualify, applicants must:

- be age 5 to 16 when applying;
- have a qualifying score on accepted intelligence and/or achievement tests;
- submit one letter of recommendation; and
- be a U.S. citizen or a permanent U.S. resident living in the United States.

[www.  
DavidsonGifted.org/  
YoungScholars](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/YoungScholars)

Davidson Young Scholars

## **The Davidson Academy of Nevada is a FREE public school for profoundly gifted middle and high school students.**

---

Located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, students attend classes at the Academy, and may access university courses for advanced studies. Unlike traditional school settings, The Davidson Academy's classes do not group students by age, but by ability level. Each student works with staff to build a Personalized Learning Plan. This process leads students through the core curriculum and helps them make elective decisions based on interest and ability.

The learning environment fosters the development of each student as an individual who understands and appreciates the Core Values of the The Davidson Academy: respect, responsibility, integrity, pursuit of knowledge, leadership and balance.

Producing well-prepared students is a priority at The Davidson Academy. In addition to classes, many students also participate in school clubs and extracurricular activities available in the Reno-Lake Tahoe area. Activities at the Academy include student council, chess, environmental awareness, math, science society, community service, student newspaper, drama, yearbook and more.

Starting in 2011, The Davidson Academy offers a residential option for qualified students to live with a host family in the local community. All residential students will be required to pay associated room and board expenses. In addition, students whose parents, or guardians, live outside of Nevada must pay an annual tuition.



## To qualify, applicants must:

- be able to perform at an advanced middle school level or above;
- demonstrate a positive attitude and commitment to learning;
- score 99.9% or above on accepted intelligence tests or on the ACT, SAT or Explore test;
- provide transcripts, grade reports and/or homeschooling records;
- submit three letters of recommendation; and
- live in Nevada while attending the Academy.

**www.  
DavidsonAcademy.  
UNR.edu**

## **The THINK Summer Institute** is a three-week residential summer program for gifted 13- to 16-year-old students, located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

---

Students can earn six transferable college credits by completing two university-level courses taught by university faculty. "THINKers" take one course in the morning and another in the afternoon. Classes are specifically designed for exceptionally gifted students interested in a challenging academic summer program. Participants receive an official college transcript upon completion of the program.

In addition to a unique academic experience, THINK is also a great opportunity to make friends who have similar interests and abilities. Students enjoy chaperoned on-campus activities as well as off-campus cultural events in the Reno-Lake Tahoe area.

Tuition for THINK includes course credits, textbooks, lab fees, room, board and planned activities. Financial assistance is available based on need. Enrollment is limited to 60 students. Homeschooled students are eligible to apply.

***“My instructors, peers and the staff made my THINK experience one of the best times of my life.”***

-THINK Student



## To qualify, applicants must:

- be 13 to 16 years old during THINK;
- have a qualifying SAT or ACT score;
- submit two letters of recommendation; and
- be a U.S. citizen or a permanent U.S. resident living in the United States.

THINK Summer Institute

[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org)  
THINK

## **The Davidson Fellows Scholarship** awards \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 scholarships to extraordinary young people under the age of 18 who have completed a significant piece of work.

---

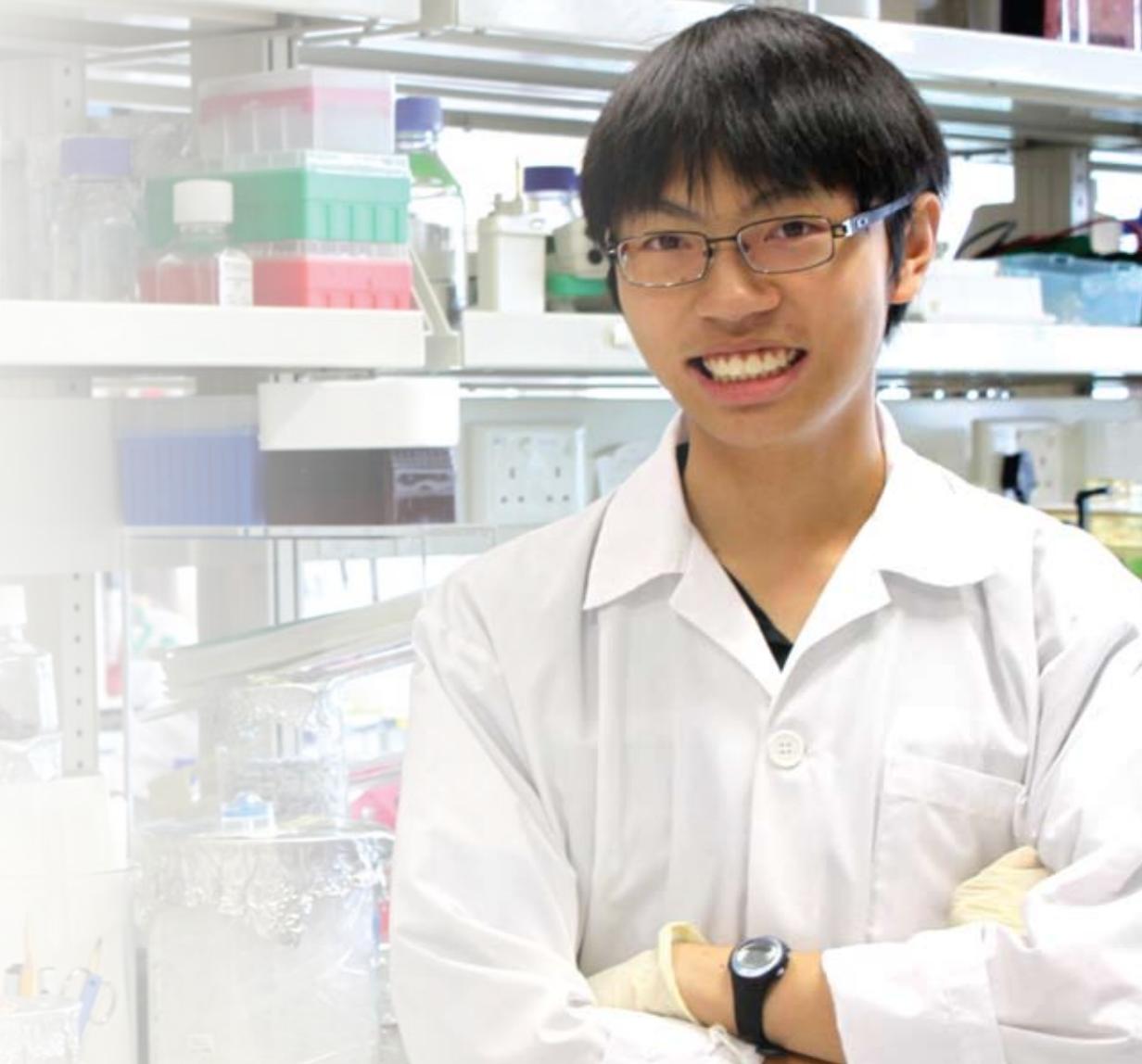
Davidson Fellows applicants must contribute a project or portfolio recognized as an outstanding accomplishment by experts in the field that has the potential to benefit society in one of the following categories: Mathematics, Science, Literature, Music, Technology, Philosophy and Outside the Box (graduate-level work in another field).

To be eligible, an applicant's submission must be an exceptionally creative demonstration of existing knowledge; a new idea with high impact; a unique application; an innovative solution with broad-range implications; an important advancement that can be replicated and built upon; an interdisciplinary discovery with the potential to effect positive change; or other demonstration of extraordinary accomplishment.

Davidson Fellows are honored every year in Washington, D.C. with congressional meetings and a special awards ceremony. There is no minimum age to apply.

***“The honor of being a Davidson Fellow comes with more than just monetary value. It is recognition of work that has the potential to benefit mankind.”***

-Davidson Fellow Laureate



## To qualify, applicants must:

- be under the age of 18;
- have completed a significant piece of work in one of the submission categories;
- submit three nominator forms; and
- be a U.S. citizen or a permanent U.S. resident living in the United States.

[www.DavidsonGifted.org/  
Fellows](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows)

## Educators Guild

The Davidson Institute's Educators Guild is a free national service for elementary, secondary and post-secondary educators, as well as other professionals committed to meeting the unique needs of highly gifted students. Connect with an ever-growing community and gain access to the following:

- An email discussion list providing education professionals the opportunity to connect with colleagues, locate resources and discuss strategies for identifying and serving highly intelligent students.
- Davidson consulting services for lesson plan ideas, educational options, assessment tools, program examples, staff development opportunities and suggestions for advocating within your school district.
- Periodic publications providing up-to-date information on both professional development and gifted teaching strategies.

[www.DavidsonGifted.org/EdGuild](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/EdGuild)

---

## Davidson Gifted Database

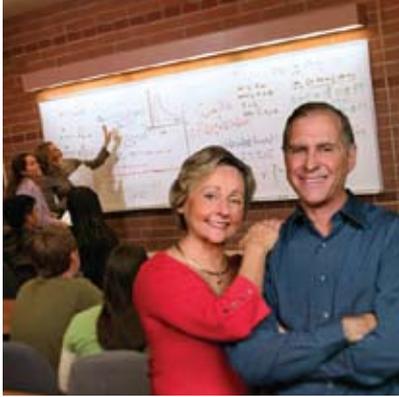
The Davidson Gifted Database is the gateway to resources for those wanting to know more about gifted and talented issues and education.

This free online database contains:

- Thousands of articles and resources
- Gifted education state policies
- An events calendar and eNewsletters
- Gifted Issues discussion forum

[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org)





## A Note from the Founders, Bob and Jan Davidson

We have always been passionate about education and its potential to empower learners. In 1982, we founded an educational software company that developed such products as *Math Blaster*® and *Reading Blaster*®, which provided a learning experience matched to a student's abilities and interests. After selling the company, we were committed to using our good fortune to improve educational opportunities for young people.

After much research, we were surprised to find that our nation's most capable students are the most underserved. These extremely talented young people are often placed in classrooms based on their age instead of their educational abilities. Rather than be locked into an age-based curriculum, we feel profoundly gifted young people should have access to educational opportunities that challenge them to excel and achieve.

In 1999, we founded the Davidson Institute for Talent Development to serve our nation's brightest students. The more we learn about these young people, the more passionate we become about the merits of our quest. We have seen what bright students can do when they are supported. We find great satisfaction in being able to help develop these young people's talents.

Kind regards,

Bob & Jan Davidson

# Characteristics of Intellectually Advanced Young People

**Highly intelligent youth are often not properly identified. Research shows this can lead to underachievement or even dropping out of school. The following are common characteristics of profoundly gifted young people:**

- An extreme need for constant mental stimulation.
- An ability to learn and process complex information rapidly.
- A need to explore subjects in surprising depth.
- An insatiable curiosity, endless questions and inquiries.
- A need for precision in thinking and expression – often answering questions with, “That depends...”
- An ability to focus intently on a subject of interest for long periods of time.
- An inability to concentrate on a task that is not intellectually challenging, including repetitious ideas or material presented in small pieces.
- A tendency toward underachievement, particularly for those who want to “fit in” with their classmates.

**The Davidson Institute is a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting profoundly gifted students. Our mission is to recognize, nurture and support profoundly intelligent young people and to provide opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference.**



[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org) | [info@DavidsonGifted.org](mailto:info@DavidsonGifted.org)  
Reno, Nevada