



**Davidson Fellow
Michael Snow**

(\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Michael Snow
Age: 17
Woodmere, N.Y.

School, College and Career Plans

Michael graduated in June 2003 with top honors from Rambam Mesivta High School in Lawrence, New York. Michael intends to continue his studies at Cornell University School of Agricultural and Life Science in Ithaca, N.Y. and pursue a research career in biological and environmental engineering.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Science*)

In his project titled "The Effect of Inorganic Fillers on Adhesion," Michael studied the effects of clay on interface and surface properties of polymers discovering clay mixtures that can enhance protective coatings to prevent adhesion of dirt and ultraviolet (UV) degradation. His research has the potential for far-reaching applications of polymer/clay nanocomposites in bio-toxin research, automobile engineering and food packaging.

Biography

For the past few summers, Michael has worked at honing his research skills through various opportunities at university research labs exposing him to the rigors, and sometimes the frustrations of scientific research and the limitations of public funding.

Most recently, Michael studied the effects of clay on the surface properties of materials as a research fellow at the Garcia Center at Stony Brook University. Although this research began as a summer project, Michael's commitment stretched into his senior year of high school and he traveled three-hours round trip on the Long Island Railroad often after school and on Sundays to complete his research.

Prior to his junior year, Michael spent the summer at Columbia University, where he attended "Explorations in Genetics and Molecular Biology." These experiments were designed to introduce students to various biologic principles and analyze the data.

Michael joined the debate team his freshman year as well as the math and college bowl teams. He also was an active participant in student government. Michael enjoys playing soccer and organized a lunchtime soccer tournament in his high school.

Please see next page.



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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2003 Davidson Fellow
- 2003 New York State Science and Engineering Fair, Second Place
- 2003 National Honor Society
- 2003 National Service Award Society
- 2003 Herbert Hoover Young Engineer Award
- 2003 Kodak Award, Best Use of Photography To Solve or Explain the Essence of a Science Project

Community Activities

Michael volunteered through a high school program called JEP that educates children about their Jewish heritage. He has also been a leader in local youth groups, which participate in a support program that allows children with developmental disabilities to be integrated into play sessions with their peers by pairing the child with a leader.

Prior to 10th grade, Michael spent the summer volunteering at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. where he assisted in the immunology and cardiology labs, which conducted studies on controlling infections in postoperative patients who had undergone angioplasties.

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