



**Davidson Fellow  
Celeste Lipkes**

(\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient)



**Personal Info**

Celeste Lipkes  
Age: 17  
Wesley Chapel, Florida

**School, College and Career Plans**

Celeste is a recent graduate of Land O' Lakes High School and will attend Johns Hopkins University, where she plans to major in Neuroscience and Writing Seminars. Celeste would like to become a medical researcher, science writer and poet.

**Davidson Fellows Submission** (*Literature*)

In her portfolio, "Room To Pace," Celeste explores the themes of disease, discovery and faith. Predominantly composed of poetry, her portfolio is witty, intense, lyrical, evocative and fun. Her personal essays focus on the concept of physical loss and the quirks of family life, while her in-depth critical essays systematically analyze the work of other poets. Through her writing, Celeste seeks to inspire readers to observe the details in everyday life.

**Biography**

Celeste began her education at a Montessori school in Virginia. After moving to Florida, she enrolled in the gifted program in elementary school and skipped fifth grade. She was then placed in gifted and advanced classes in middle school, later enrolling in International Baccalaureate classes in high school.

Celeste hopes that her project impacts people who have dealt with illness or physical loss. She believes that by sharing her own experiences with disease she can bring others hope and encourage people to find an artistic outlet for their emotions.

Celeste has received local and national awards for her writing, most recently the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University and a Silver Award in Poetry from The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Outside of school, Celeste loves to dance; she takes classes in ballet/pointe, jazz, hip-hop, modern and choreography. For the last three years she has choreographed modern pieces for her studio's annual performance and she hopes to continue dancing at Johns Hopkins. Celeste also enjoys reading, scrapbooking, making jewelry, listening to music and shopping with her mom.

*Please see next page.*



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*(Cont.)*

**Honors/Awards**

- 2007 Davidson Fellow
- 2007 Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University
- 2007 Silver Award in Poetry, The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, National Competition
- 2007 Kristofer King Memorial Writing Scholarship
- 2007 PRIDE Award in writing for Pasco County School District
- 2007 Gold Key Award in Poetry and Humor Writing, The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Region-At-Large
- 2006 Winner of National Council of Teachers of English Writing Achievement Award
- 2006 Winner of General Federation of Women's Clubs Youth Poetry Statewide Contest
- 2006 Published in *Southern Voices* and *Kenyon Young Writers Anthology*
- 2006 Finalist, Nancy Thorp Poetry Contest
- 2006 Winner of Creative Communications Poetry Contest
- 2005 Third Place, University of South Florida Honor College ArtWrite Contest

**Community Activities**

Celeste volunteered for the Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Foster Home program and she and her father volunteered at a local hospital with their dog, Jake, as a dog therapy team.

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