



**Davidson Fellow
Eric Brooks**

\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient



Personal Info

Age: 16
Hewlett, New York

School, College and Career Plans

A graduate of George W. Hewlett High School, Eric will attend Yale University this fall. He is currently deciding on a major and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Science*)

In his project, "Transition from Indolent to Metastatic Prostate Cancer Characterized through the Health Disparity between African American and Caucasian American Men," Eric studied the genetic factors affecting metastatic progression of prostate cancer. Approximately 30% of men with prostate cancer will die from it, but it is difficult to predict who will get the metastatic diagnosis. Eric developed models based on evolutionary selection to identify genes that may affect metastatic potential either positively or negatively. His observations may be used to design better clinical predictors to indicate who must undergo painful treatment and for whom the treatment is unnecessary.

Biography

Eric began his science research at the age of 14 at New York University Medical Center, first as an unpaid research volunteer for two years, then continued as a research assistant in the Human Genetics Program. It was there that he chose to study prostate cancer, since it is one of the most common yet least understood cancers.

The most difficult challenge Eric faced in doing his research was finding a research laboratory that was willing to accept a 14-year-old for liability reasons. Fortunately, with the help of his middle school science teacher, his parents and the American Society for Human Genetics, he was able to obtain research position at New York University Medical Center, where he has worked ever since.

Eric was an editor of his school newspaper, president of the Mock Trial team, captain of the Math Olympiad Team, and president of the National and Foreign Language Honor Societies. He was also first cello in the Hewlett High School Orchestra and Hewlett Pit Orchestra. Eric supplemented his education with math courses from Nassau Community College and Saturday classes at Columbia University through the Columbia Science Honors Program.

Please see next page.



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cont.

Honors/Awards

- 2010 Davidson Fellow
- 2010 Intel Science Talent Search, Fifth Place National Winner
- 2010 George W. Hewlett High School Valedictorian
- 2010 Minor Planet 25901 Ericbrooks named in honor of biomedical research
- 2010 Induction, Long Island Technology Hall of Fame
- 2010 Dr. Ezra Levy Memorial Award, presented by American Society for Clinical Chemistry
- 2010 National Merit Scholar Winner
- 2010 - 2008 National Advanced Placement Scholar
- 2009 English Department Recognition for Writing - presented to strongest writer in the class
- 2009 George Washington University Engineering Medal - presented to strongest student in math and science departments
- 2009-2008 Siemens Competition for Science, Technology and Mathematics, Semifinalist
- 2009, 2006 National History Day Competition, First Place in New York State

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