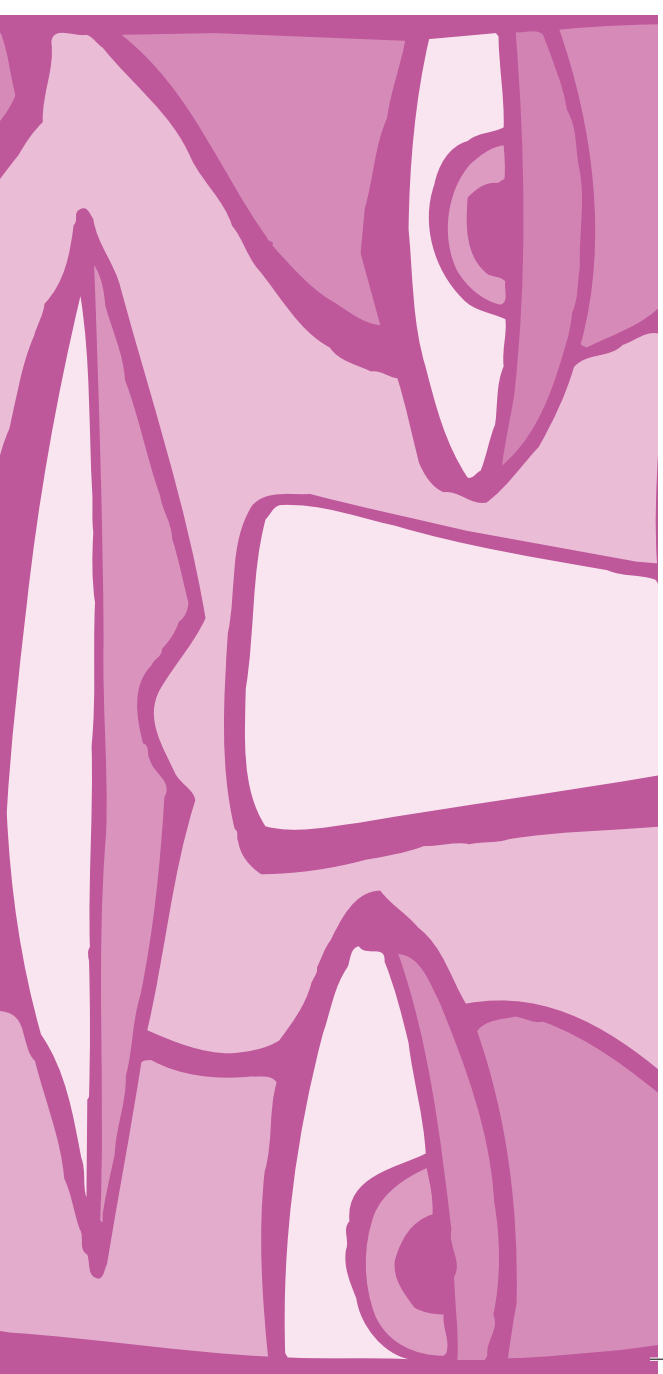


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# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual **BrainDance Awards**

Stop The Stigma

# on Mental Illness

# for Student Projects

## BrainDance Awards

# BrainDance Awards for Student Projects on Mental Illness

The Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital is sponsoring an academic and art competition designed to decrease the stigma of mental illness. The BrainDance Awards encourage high school students to gain knowledge about psychiatric diseases and develop a more tolerant and realistic perspective toward people with severe psychiatric problems. The competition also aims to promote students' interest in careers in mental healthcare. **Back after popular demand: A panel discussion featuring different mental health disciplines.** To receive a BrainDance Award, a student must submit an academic project or an art project on themes related to severe mental illness. Projects must be submitted using a flash drive or dropbox format only (WLMP files or project files are not accepted). Acceptable video formats are .WMV or MPEG 4. Awards up to \$1,000 will be given to the best submissions.

The projects will be judged by expert clinicians and researchers in the field, based on:

- Relevance to the issue of stigma
- Creativity
- Accuracy of information
- Scientific rigor

Projects on any theme related to severe mental illness will be considered for an award.

## The Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network (BHN)

is one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive behavioral health networks, providing a broad spectrum of treatment over the lifespan for individuals with mental health and substance abuse illnesses in Connecticut and beyond. Treatment options include inpatient, residential and outpatient, and meet a variety of needs including young adult services, clinical day treatment schools, professional programs, Medicated Assistance Close to Home (MATCH) for opioid and alcohol dependency, and family resources including support groups and educational seminars. The BHN is composed of the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital, one of the nation's oldest psychiatric hospitals and research facilities (including the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, the Anxiety Disorders Center and the Clinical Trials Unit), Natchaug Hospital, Rushford, and the behavioral health departments and outpatient treatment programs at HHC acute care hospitals. The BHN also provides several residency and fellowship opportunities through the Institute of Living and Rushford, including child and adolescent psychiatry, general psychiatry and addiction medicine.

### The categories are: Academic, Art, and Mixed Media.

All applicants, their teachers, families and classmates will be invited to an awards day celebration hosted by the Institute of Living on April 27, 2023. This day is designed to be an educational extension opportunity and will include a lecture by a national expert on mental illness, an awards presentation, a visit to our Myths, Minds & Medicine museum on the history of mental healthcare and a tour of our neuro-imaging research center and a panel of experts in the mental health field. Winners are encouraged to present a brief synopsis summarizing their projects. The student lecture and presentations are designed so all participants can cite their BrainDance projects on future school or job applications.

**To apply for the awards:** please log on to: [www.nrc-iol.org](http://www.nrc-iol.org) and follow the link to BrainDance for application forms, information and procedures. Submission deadline is February 1, 2023.

**The awards are coordinated by:** Godfrey Pearlson, MD, Director, Olin Neuro-psychiatry Research Center and Melissa Deasy, LCSW, Director of Residential & Ancillary Services.

**For more information: contact Melissa Deasy at 860.545.7665 or [melissa.deasy@hhchealth.org](mailto:melissa.deasy@hhchealth.org)**