



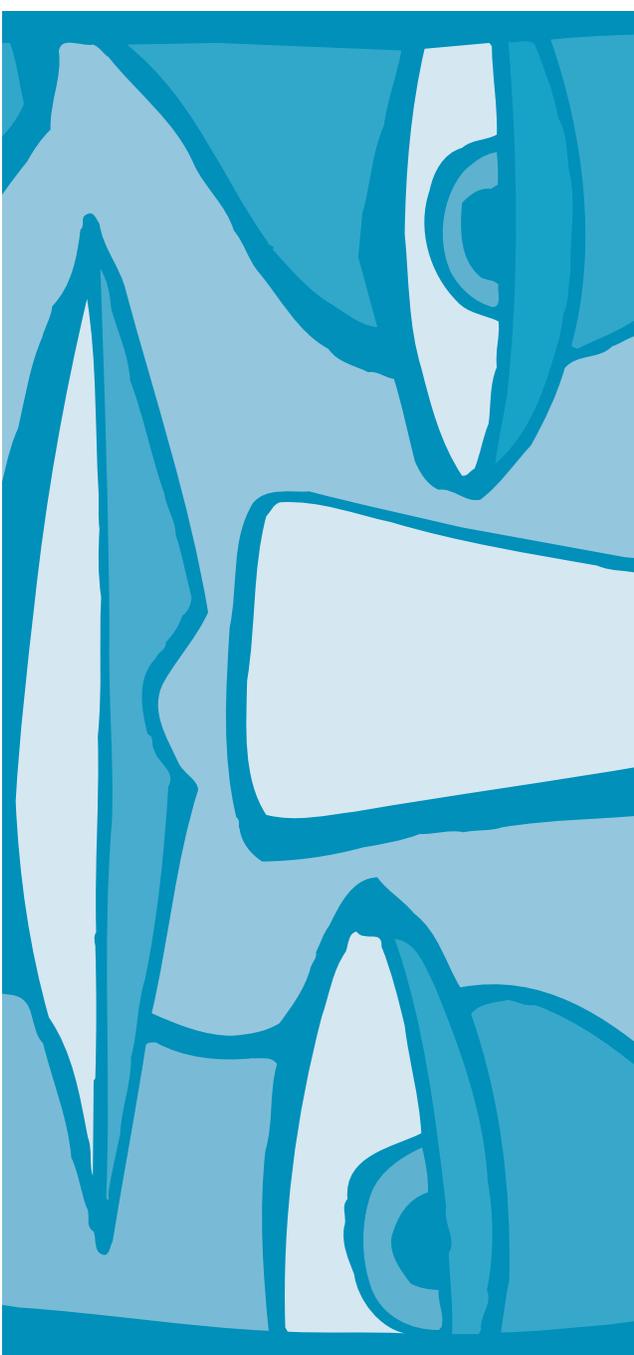
Institute
of Living

A Division of Hartford Hospital

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15th Annual **BrainDance Awards**

Stop The Stigma

on Mental Illness

BrainDance Awards for Student Projects

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 health- care. **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

is comprised of the Hartford Hospital Institute of Living, Natchaug Hospital, Rushford and the behavioral health departments of the Hospital of Central Connecticut, MidState Medical Center, and The William W. Backus Hospital. For more than a century, the members of the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network have been connecting people with services including inpatient and outpatient services in a variety of settings for children, adolescents and adults with mental health or substance abuse issues.

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 26, 2018. 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 and follow the link to BrainDance for application forms, information and procedures. Submission deadline is February 1, 2018.

The awards are coordinated by:

Godfrey Pearlson, MD, Director, Olin Neuro-psychiatry Research Center and Nancy Hubbard, LCSW, Director of Outpatient & Ancillary Services.

For more information: contact Nancy Hubbard at 860.545.7665 or nancy.hubbard@hhchealth.org