About the Child Mind Institute

The Child Mind Institute is an independent, national nonprofit dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders. Our teams work every day to deliver the highest standards of care, advance the science of the developing brain, and empower parents, professionals and policymakers to support children when and where they need it most. Together with our supporters, we’re helping children reach their full potential in school and in life. We share all of our resources freely and do not accept any funding from the pharmaceutical industry. Learn more at childmind.org.

About Hunter College

Hunter College, located in the heart of Manhattan, is the largest senior college in the City University of New York (CUNY). Founded in 1870, it is also one of the oldest public colleges in the country. More than 23,000 students currently attend Hunter, pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in more than 170 areas of study. Hunter’s student body is as diverse as New York City itself. For more than 140 years, Hunter has provided educational opportunities for women and minorities, and today, students from every walk of life and every corner of the world attend Hunter. In addition to offering a multitude of academic programs in its prestigious School of Arts and Sciences, Hunter offers a wide breadth of programs in its preeminent Schools of Education, Nursing, Social Work, Health Professions, and Urban Public Health.

Child Mind Institute
Rising Scientist Awards

Presented in partnership with Hunter College
About the Rising Scientist Awards

The Child Mind Institute’s annual Rising Scientist Awards are a prestigious pre-college distinction for high school students who demonstrate superior academic performance in science and extraordinary promise in research in the fields of mental health, neuroscience or biomedical engineering.

Winners receive a $2,000 scholarship for college expenses and the opportunity to interact with renowned scientists. Winners are celebrated at a special ceremony featuring the Child Mind Institute’s Annual Sarah Gund Distinguished Scientist. Past Distinguished Scientists include Nora Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Thomas Insel, MD, former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Rising Scientist winners also receive invitations to special research and educational events provided by the Child Mind Institute, including a VIP invitation to the annual “On the Shoulders of Giants” scientific symposium, attended by world-class researchers and children’s mental health experts. Winners are also invited to shadow a scientist for a day at the Child Mind Institute.

Past Rising Scientist awardees have gone on to study at colleges including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, MIT and Cornell and have worked in prestigious laboratories at Mt. Sinai, Stony Brook, Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering and Rockefeller University, among others.

Nominations

Open to high school seniors (graduating class of 2021)

Outstanding achievement in research in the fields of mental health, neuroscience or biomedical engineering

Nominations must be made by school faculty

The nomination form can be found here: childmind.org/RisingScientistAwards

The nominations period closes September 10, 2020. Winners are announced in mid-September.

“This award is an incredible opportunity for our students and is the only award of its type for students passionate in child psychology. To have a student recognized is incredible!! Thank you!”

— Valerie Holmes, Teacher
Ossining High School

“The Rising Scientist Award is an incredible accomplishment for any student.”

— Joanne Figueiredo, Teacher
Smithtown High School West