

Update



HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR KIDS SUCCEED

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Announces the 2017 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award

We are pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award. This \$1,000 award recognizes the strengths and accomplishments of young people with learning disabilities and ADHD. It will be given to a student 19 years old or younger who has demonstrated initiative, talent and determination resulting in a notable accomplishment in any field—including art, music, science, math, athletics or community service. Honorable Mentions will also be awarded.

The award will be presented at the organization's 17th Anniversary Benefit Gala in Fairfield County, CT, on an evening to be determined. Transportation and hotel accommodations will be provided for the winning student and his/her parents.

The winner of the 2016 Award is Grace Taskinsoy of Fountain Hills, AZ. Grace used her struggle with dyslexia as the inspiration to work with lawmakers to develop legislation that mandates student support and teacher education for dyslexia. Grace continues to advocate for students like herself through public outreach.

A Special Recognition Award was presented to Sophia Gross of Conshohocken, PA and a Junior Achievement Award to Caragan Olles of DePere, WI. Students from Larkspur, CA; Jupiter, FL; Naperville, IL; Lutz, FL and Palatine, IL received Honorable Mention Awards.

The application on the reverse side of this announcement may be submitted by parents, teachers, coaches, mentors or

students themselves; or an application may be downloaded from the **Smart Kids** website at www.SmartKidswithLD.org/2017award.html. Please submit the application and documentation by the contest deadline of December 31, 2016 to **Smart Kids with LD**, 38 Kings Highway North, Westport CT 06880. For information, contact us via email at Info@SmartKidswithLD.org.



"I loved learning and giving up wasn't an option. . . . My dyslexia allows me to think in different, creative and unique ways." — GRACE TASKINSOY

"What I say to children with learning disabilities is: We're like anybody else in terms of intelligence. But we're wired differently. If we were in the majority, we'd be trying to figure out how to teach them!"

FRED J. EPSTEIN, MD 1937 – 2006
*Internationally renowned pediatric neurosurgeon,
pioneering physician, researcher, teacher, administrator*

Nominations for the Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award

Smart Kids with LD | 38 Kings Highway North, Westport, CT 06880 | 203.226.6831

Nominee

Name _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number & Email _____

Documented Learning Disability or ADHD _____

School Currently Attending & Address _____ Grade _____

Nominator

Name _____

Relationship to Nominee _____

Address _____

Phone Number & Email _____

Attachments

1. The nominator's written description of the nominee's learning disability or ADHD and achievement (including the impact the achievement has had on the nominee and others).
2. A personal statement from the nominee describing how he/she has dealt with the challenges associated with the learning disability or ADHD.
3. Supporting materials that confirm or demonstrate the nominee's achievement.
4. Documented proof of the candidate's LD or ADHD (a few pages from an IEP, e.g.).
5. A recent photo of the nominee.

Please type your description (no more than 2 pages) and attach all pages and documentation before mailing to the address at the top of this form. Applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2016.

Consent by Parent/Guardian (required)

I hereby authorize **Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities (SKLD)** to use and release information contained in the application for the Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award that I am submitting on behalf of _____ (state name of child), who is my _____ (state legal relationship with child). I understand that SKLD may release information including the Nominee's name, likeness, and narrative information (but not including details of the diagnosis, IEP plan or other supporting documentation) in its newsletter(s), promotional and other written and visual material, presentations and outreach efforts. (Please note that SKLD will not release telephone numbers, email and street addresses or fax numbers without seeking your prior permission.) Additionally, if the child nominated above wins the 2017 award, I agree to attend the award ceremony with the child (who will be expected to give a brief, 3- to 4-minute acceptance speech). Transportation costs and hotel accommodations will be provided by **Smart Kids** for the child and parents.

Signed: _____ Date: _____