

## Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities Announces the 2015 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award

Nominations are now open for the 2015 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 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 15th Anniversary Benefit on the evening of Saturday, March 7th at a not-yet disclosed venue in Fairfield County, CT. Transportation and hotel accommodations will be provided for the winning student and his/her parents.

The winner of the 2014 Award was Alexandra Sheridan of Marcellus, NY. Alexandra is a Youth Ambassador for the UN, and a representative of Dr. Jane Goodall's non-profit organization, Roots & Shoots. Her out-of-the-box thinking and hard-won self-confidence have made her successful as an experiential counselor, award-winning artist, and performing artist despite her struggles with dyslexia, ADHD and dysgraphia.

A Special Recognition Award was presented to Brian Meersma of Princeton Junction, NJ; and a Junior Achievement Award to Blake Resnick of Las Vegas, NV. Students from Houston, TX; Kensington, CT; Sewickley, PA; and Stallings, NC 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/2015award.html](http://www.SmartKidswithLD.org/2015award.html). Please submit the application and documentation by the contest deadline of December 15, 2014 to **Smart Kids with LD**, 38 Kings Highway North, Westport, CT 06880. For information, contact us via email at [Info@SmartKidswithLD.org](mailto:Info@SmartKidswithLD.org).



*Alexandra Sheridan accepted the 2014 Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award for living her belief that each person can make a difference, as a Youth Ambassador for Dr. Jane Goodall's organization, and as a counselor, artist, and performing artist.*

*“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 15, 2014.*

## 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 2015 award, I agree to attend the award ceremony on March 7, 2015 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: \_\_\_\_\_