



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brain Health Initiative Opens Nominations for a Third Cohort of the Esteemed Brain Health Scholar Program**

August 15, 2023, LAKEWOOD RANCH, Fla. — The Brain Health Initiative (BHI) is opening nominations for the competitive search of its 2023-2025 class of leaders to work with its faculty and scientists. The Brain Health Scholar program includes nominated honors students, thought leaders, action takers, recent graduates from collaborating high schools, youth development programs, universities, graduate training programs, medical schools, BHI partners, and stakeholders. Nominees should be leaders interested in life science, medicine, community or public health, and/or education.

In 2020, the BHI welcomed its inaugural class of 69 Brain Health Scholars representing 19 schools and universities. In the summer of 2022, 43 students made up the second cohort of the Brain Health Scholars Program, with an additional 8 Senior Scholars who returned to continue their work as Senior Scholars. Senior Scholars were originally part of the inaugural BHS class.

Beginning this summer, the current scholars will welcome the third cohort of the Brain Health Scholars. Scholars will work in a hybrid model with the BHI scientists and clinicians to promote and protect brain health, fight brain illness, and improve brain performance for all ages. Scholars will have the opportunity to learn from lectures from Harvard scientists and world-renowned subject matter experts, learn basic brain health science, then translate that science into action.

“The Scholars learn how to translate the science into action to impact themselves and those they care about. This program is also strategically planned to support Scholars personally and those they interact with through the stressful period of life transitions, to normalize and destigmatize their lived brain health and illness experiences, and to share the science of brain health and performance, and our plan has worked,” said BHI Executive Director Dr. Stephanie Peabody.

This program supports Life Sciences and the communities and university systems where our Scholars are or become students or recent graduates. Future chapter programs will continue to be established over the years. All participants receive a certificate documenting their service to the global research, education, training, and impact initiative facilitated by the Brain Health Initiative

The Brain Health Initiative has also recently launched the Brain Health Scholar Program Affiliate Development Committee. It has tasked itself with dismantling the ever-present brain health crisis globally on college, graduate, medical school, and high school campuses. The Brain Health Scholars Program (BHSP) has demonstrated its effectiveness in disseminating information and positively impacting the brain illness crisis; therefore, we aim to further succeed in expanding the reach and impact of the BHSP with additional college and high school campuses. Currently, the Brain Health Scholar Program Affiliate Development Committee is developing the framework of BHSP's implementation on Harvard College's campus, hoping to utilize it as a model applicable to other campuses. Other participating universities include the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Spalding University, the University of South Florida, the University of Florida, and the University of Michigan.

“This program is designed to give students a leg up in the college, internship, graduate and medical school, fellowship, and scholarship application process. Through the introductions made and the experiences gained, the Scholars are differentiated from many other applicants, and we consider that as value-added but most definitely not the focus of our work together,” Dr. Peabody said. “We hope to inspire these Scholars to continue to be engaged with the work of the Brain Health Initiative and to pursue future careers in Health Science as clinicians, scholars, advocates, innovators, educators, or in other related capacities.”

If you want to nominate one or more thought leaders to become a Brain Health Scholar, please click this [link](#). Please see the following pages for additional information about the Brain Health Initiative and the Brain Health Scholar Program. For questions or requests for more information, please contact the BHSP student liaison, Alex Velez, at [alexvelez.bhi@gmail.com](mailto:alexvelez.bhi@gmail.com).

[Watch a short video from scholars of the inaugural class](#)

[Watch a SNN TV segment about the program](#)

[To read about the experiences of previous scholars, please visit the comprehensive BHI Brain Health Scholar Gratitude Journal](#)

[Please visit the Brain Health Initiative website for more information.](#)

[To nominate a Brain Health Scholar](#)  
[To apply as a Brain Health Scholar](#)

## BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE

BHI FACULTY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

STUDENT LIAISON



Dr. Stephanie Peckbody



Dr. Shelley Carson



Kim Hite



Keri McQuay

## 2020 INAUGURAL CLASS BRAIN HEALTH SCHOLARS



NOT PICTURED

Erel Cragan  
Boston High School

Jorge Hernandez  
Boston High School



2020-2024  
BRAIN HEALTH SCHOLARS

BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE



About the Brain Health Initiative ([www.brain health initiative.org](http://www.brain-health-initiative.org))

The Brain Health Initiative, Inc. (BHI), a 501(c)(3) global non-profit, uses a cutting-edge approach to protecting brain health, promoting brain performance, and preventing and fighting brain illness across the lifespan. The BHI is on a mission to build brain-healthy communities, cultures that promote brain-healthy lifestyles, foster protective factors, and address risk factors, thereby improving brain health and optimizing brain performance outcomes while addressing disparities at the individual, family, and community level. BHI is activating the next generation of brain health advocates and is a leader in brain health engagement, research, innovation, and education.

**Stand UP for Brain Health**  
**OPTIMIZE Brain Performance**  
**DISRUPT Brain Illness**

**Be Brain Healthy: Be Brain Powerful**  
**Become an Ambassador of Brain Health**

**Brain Health IS Health**  
**Brain Health MATTERS and LIFESTYLE Makes a DIFFERENCE!**