A LEADER AND INNOVATOR
IN GIFTED EDUCATION
Over 40 years ago Johns Hopkins psychologist Julian Stanley began studying precocious intellectual ability in pre-college students. With one of the earliest Spencer Foundation grants, he launched a longitudinal study then known as the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth, and now continued in the Julian C. Stanley Study of Exceptional Talent. Not content with merely studying how profoundly gifted students should be identified and educated, Stanley put his research findings into action by creating the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY).

CTY was the first national program designed to meet the needs of the most advanced learners in the United States, and it remains the largest organization of its kind today. Since our founding in 1979, we have expanded to offer a wide range of programs and have reached countless students and their families.

CTY identifies academic talent in second- through eighth-grade students by conducting an annual Talent Search, using above-grade-level testing to discover the true range of ability among the brightest of the bright. We celebrate those students for their achievement in regional and national award ceremonies. We then offer them a variety of programs designed to fully develop their talents and to appropriately challenge them.

ACROSS THE NATION, AROUND THE WORLD
Our students come from families of all income levels, from urban and rural areas across the U.S. and from countries throughout the world. Our residential and non-residential summer programs enroll more than 9,450 students annually at 25 locations in the United States and Hong Kong. Every year CTYOnline courses reach more than 13,000 students both at home and through selected school programs, and our Family Academic Programs enroll more than 5,300 students and their parents.
For high-ability students, CTY provides the rare opportunity to learn in person and online in a challenging, fast-paced, intensive, and collaborative intellectual environment. For schools, CTY offers a supplement to their own gifted programs. CTY is an incubator of ideas and innovation for the United States and beyond. The Center seeks to help prepare the next generations of eminent and creative leaders in all fields—the scientists, engineers, artists, educators, and entrepreneurs that nations need to prosper.

During the last decade, the Center’s role in developing talent and sparking curiosity and creativity in young people has taken on a global dimension. International students from 120 countries are enrolled in CTY summer and online programs today. Leaders of nations around the world come to CTY seeking to develop educational training, and intellectual property in person and online in a challenging, fast-paced, intensive, and collaborative environment designed to help young people develop the full extent of their academic and non-cognitive potential.

The Center is poised to take its role as a leader and innovator in gifted education to the next level. By growing our research capabilities and interests and increasing access to the Center for all highly talented students whose educational needs are not being fully met, we can contribute broadly and deeply to the global effort to understand and improve human learning.

What will it take to make this happen? With private funding for research—in a field that has never had public support—we will lead the way in studying what precocious development tells us about the mind’s potential to learn, and in translating the findings of our research into new methods that will help educate the brightest students and strengthen the capacity for learning in all students. With increased funding for scholarships and talent development, we will seek out the most able students from neighborhoods, schools, cities, and counties across the nation and provide them with the means to attend CTY and take advantage of our exceptional opportunities.

CTY is poised to take its role as a leader and innovator in gifted education to the next level. By growing the Center’s research capabilities and interests and increasing access to our programs for all students who qualify, CTY can contribute broadly and deeply to the global effort to understand and improve human learning.

With Your Support We Will

- Use our longitudinal dataset and ever-expanding population of academically advanced students and their families to contribute to research in education and other disciplines.
- Collaborate with colleagues at Johns Hopkins and other universities across such disciplines as education, cognitive psychology, neurology, and the brain sciences on research projects that advance the understanding of how exceptional minds flourish and generate findings that can influence the way all students learn.
With Your Support We Will

- Increase summer and online scholarships for bright, low-resource students.
- Grow the Center’s endowment to ensure continuity of programs and services for underserved students.
- Expand full and partial scholarships for high-achieving, middle-class students unable to afford CTY without financial aid.

INCREASING ACCESS TO CTY

CTY’s fundamental belief is that gifted students need to be challenged and inspired, engaged, and nurtured so that they can reach their fullest potential. Scientists may not yet fully understand the social and genetic determinants of intelligence, and yet students with high potential reside in every neighborhood across the world. Unfortunately many of these young people never have the opportunity to realize their academic talents.

Seen in this light, developing extraordinary talent isn’t an elite movement to help the fortunate few; it’s a question of equity and inclusion. The last decade of focus on underachieving students by U.S. public schools has, in fact, left more academically advanced minority and low-resource students behind and has created an “excellence gap.”

We are therefore committed to offering programs to all bright students who qualify, regardless of their family’s socioeconomic status. Since 1998, the number of our students receiving need-based financial support has grown from one percent to more than 17 percent. Making CTY accessible to all academically advanced students who qualify is one of our greatest priorities.

Both demonstrating and challenging CTY’s success in this area, the number of requests from families needing financial aid for their children to attend our programs is growing faster than our financial aid resources. We are working to bridge this gap, and with your support we can reach out to more bright students and give them the experiences and opportunities that will help them blossom into tomorrow’s thought leaders and innovators.

Over the next five years the Center will raise the number of students receiving financial aid, eventually aiming to be need-blind.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: TAKING THE NEXT STEP

CTY is a pioneer in the field of gifted education. Over the last four decades we have reached an estimated two million academically advanced students and their families with programs specially designed to challenge and inspire. Through research, we have furthered the understanding of how bright students learn and what they need to realize their full potential.

LEARN AND SHARE

Visit cty.jhu.edu to learn more about CTY, hear directly from students and their families, and engage with others who are passionate about the field of gifted education. Share your thoughts with us at rising.jhu.edu and help spread the word through your professional and personal networks.

MAKE A GIFT

We seek to raise $54 million so that CTY can reach more bright students, further the scientific understanding of the learning process, and transform the field of education. Please contact us to guide you in exploring gift opportunities and planning and structuring gifts in ways that answer your goals and ours.

CONTACT US TODAY

To pursue any of the options listed above, please contact:

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The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth