**2024 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award**

**Application Information**

**Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award:**

The *Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award*is presented annually to a student or resident in a health-related field who submits the best overall application and essay addressing the 2024 Focus on Eye Health Summit theme: ***Being Seen and Heard.*** This year’s theme—“Being Seen and Heard”— emphasizes the importance of a person-centered approach to vision health interventions, research, communications, and care. Being seen and heard by providers, policy makers, researchers, public health experts, and other stakeholders allows an individual’s complex health issues to be addressed while taking into consideration their preferences, cultural background, and social context. Ultimately, this leads to the most ideal outcomes for all involved in the interaction.

This esteemed award consists of formal acknowledgement and a commemorative plaque to be presented virtually on July 10th or 11th, 2024 at the [Focus on Eye Health Summit](http://www.preventblindness.org/eyesummit). The awardee will also be invited to present their essay and related work as a Summit speaker. Information on previous recipients of the *Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award* can be found [here](https://preventblindness.org/rising-visionary-award/).

**Applicant Criteria:**

Current student, intern, or resident located in the United States in optometry, ophthalmology, primary health care, nursing, psychology, or another health-related field. The awardee must be available to present virtually at the 2024 Focus on Eye Health Summit on July 10th or July 11th, 2024.

**Submission Requirements:**

***Please note****: Submissions not adhering to the guidelines detailed below (for e.g., not responding to each of the three individual essay sections, exceeding page limits and word counts etc.) will not be considered.*

* **Application Cover Sheet:** The essaymust be submitted with an application cover sheet (template included in this application packet).
* **Essay**: 500-word essay answering the following topic:

***Topic****: Identify an opportunity in which engaging the preferences, cultural background, and social context of patients and/or caregivers in development of vision and eye health research, programs, or policy can lead to more impactful outcomes.*

1. Describe an opportunity where engaging individuals can lead to meaningful vision and eye health research, programs, or policy. (100 words)
2. How will the identified opportunity positively impact vision and eye health in the U.S.? (250 words)
3. Explain the systems or processes that will need to change for the impact to be fully realized. (150 words)
* **Curriculum Vitae and Personal Statement**: Submit a one-page curriculum vitae containing higher educational accomplishments, work experience, honors, professional memberships, volunteer work, and other related experience. Please include a 200-word personal statement describing the relevant academic, experiential, and leadership training. [Click here for an example](https://preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Prevent-Blindness-Rising-Visionary-Award-Curriculum-Vitae-Example.pdf).
* **Letters of Recommendation**: Up to two recent letters of recommendation from a professor, employer, mentor, or other professional with an advisory or supervisory role in your program of study. The letter should describe the terms and duration of the relationship with the applicant (two-page maximum for each letter).

**About Prevent Blindness and the Focus on Eye Health Summit**

Founded in 1908, [Prevent Blindness](http://www.preventblindness.org) is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs, and research.

Prevent Blindness will host the 13th annual [Focus on Eye Health Summit](https://www.preventblindness.org/eyesummit) as a virtual interactive event on July 10th-11th, 2024. The Focus on Eye Health Summit elevates the national dialogue among diverse stakeholder groups around vision and significant population health issues such as surveillance, equity, access, prevention messaging, service integration, program development, and dissemination of best practices. The Summit allows its participants to develop new collaborations, integrate new vision health messages and procedures into their outreach, and improve lines of communication with internal and external partners.

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**Application Cover Sheet**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name:

Title:

Training program:

Preferred mailing address:

Email:

Telephone:

If selected, are you available to speak virtually at the 2024 Focus on Eye Health Summit on July 10th or 11th, 2024?

[ ]  **YES**

[ ]  **NO**

How did you hear about the *2024 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award*?

[ ]  Email

[ ]  Press release

[ ]  Social media

[ ]  Colleague

[ ]  Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Checklist:**

***Please note****: Submissions not adhering to the guidelines below (for e.g., not responding to each of the three individual essay sections, exceeding page limits and word counts etc.) will not be considered.*

[ ]  **Application Cover Sheet**

[ ]  **Essay** (not exceeding 500 words)

[ ]  **Curriculum Vitae and Personal Statement** (1 page)

[ ]  **Letters of Recommendation** (up to two)

**Applicant, please sign after reading:**

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct. I understand that to falsify or omit information is grounds for this award to be revoked or withdrawn. I acknowledge that the Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award may be revoked or withdrawn at any time or for any reason by Prevent Blindness.*

**Applicant signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email the items in the application checklist with the subject “2024 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award” to Nita Sinha, Director of Public Health at** **npatelsinha@preventblindness.org** **by Monday, February 5th, 2024 at noon ET.**