



Academic Partners in Excellence (APEX) is a subset of Maryland Mensa's Bringing Resources and Involvement to Gifted Homes Together (BRIGHT) program, and is designed to support academic partners committed to providing exceptional opportunities for gifted students. The opportunities described below are just a starting point for discussion. Participating academic partners will work with BRIGHT to develop a tailored suite of opportunities that meet their unique needs and operational requirements. For more information, please contact Maryland Mensa's Gifted Youth Coordinator, Kristine Poptanich, at [Kristine.Poptanich@gmail.com](mailto:Kristine.Poptanich@gmail.com).

**APEX GRANT.** Participating academic partners will be eligible to compete for the annual APEX Grant Program designed to support the exceptional academic efforts of gifted educators and academic institutions.

**EXCLUSIVE TESTING.** Maryland Mensa will conduct dedicated testing sessions for gifted youth over the age of 14 and gifted educators interested in formal IQ testing.

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES.** Through BRIGHT's Challenge Box program, participating institutions can receive free Challenge Boxes to help teachers to bring hands-on enrichment to the classroom.

**PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS.** Maryland Mensa is available to host parent information sessions, or to participate in existing parent information sessions, to help make parents aware of the tremendous resources and enrichment opportunities available to them and their gifted youth.

**GIFTED TEACHER ROUNDTABLES.** For interested academic institutions, Maryland Mensa is happy to host roundtables to introduce BRIGHT to interested educators and discuss issues related to gifted education.

**THE CHALLENGE BOX.** Participating Schools will receive a box filled with assorted parts and a challenge that participating teams must complete using only the provided parts. Teams will be competing against other teams from across the country.

**APEX SCHOOL, EDUCATOR, AND STUDENT AWARDS.** Each year, BRIGHT will recognize a school and educator for gifted education innovation, as well as a student dedicated to challenging his or her intellect inside and outside the classroom.

**TAKE A TEACHER TO WORK.** BRIGHT is developing a program to help gifted educators gain hands-on experience in their area of interest and educational expertise.