CUNY Hunter College has been designated as one of 11 Capstone Colleges in the United States by the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](https://www.hhmi.org). This is the result of long-term funding to PI Professor [Shirley Raps](https://www.hhmi.org) from Sept. 1, 1993 - Aug. 31, 2017, resulting in “mature and successful” programs at the college. This includes recruiting a faculty member to create a bioinformatics program, supporting research by junior faculty in biology, curriculum changes and innovations in biology for undergraduates, increasing support for undergraduate research, enhancing science education for teachers and their students at public high schools and middle schools, collaboration with the Manhattan/Hunter Science High School to provide research opportunities for their students, and developing a Science Policy track in the Public Policy Program at Roosevelt House for undergraduates. Hunter is the only public urban college to receive this designation. The other colleges are Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Carleton, Grinnell, Hope, Morehouse, Smith, Spelman, Swarthmore, and Xavier. Further information can be found on the Biology HHMI website.