

The 19th Heinz Awards



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Educator and Innovator Salman Khan

Honored as One of Five Recipients of 19th Annual Heinz Awards

Receives Recognition for Reimagining the Education Model and for Developing the Most Innovative Online Tools to Personalize How Each Student Learns

PITTSBURGH, February 25, 2014 – [The Heinz Awards](#), established by Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation to honor the memory of the late U.S. Senator John Heinz, today recognized Salman Khan, founder and executive director of the nonprofit Khan Academy, as one of the five recipients of the 19th Heinz Awards. The winner in the Human Condition category, Mr. Khan is using innovative online technology and intuitive instructional approaches to provide a free, world-class education to students of all ages from around the globe.

The roots of Khan Academy date back to 2004 when Mr. Khan began remotely tutoring his young cousin who was struggling with math. Today, Khan Academy has grown into one of the most frequently used online education and learning tools in the world. It houses more than 5,000 instructional videos and interactive lessons, and the resources are accessed by more than 10 million unique users per month, including students from almost every nation.

“Salman Khan has been a pioneer in the use of online technology to promote personalized learning and to transform education. His Khan Academy is helping move education from a mass-production model where every student learns the same material at the same rate in the same way to an individualized model where students can learn and engage differently based on their personal styles of learning. By meeting students where they are, he has made education more powerful and more successful for thousands of students, and he has demonstrated something we all should know but too easily forget – that people of all backgrounds have a hunger and ability to learn,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation.

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Khan Academy's online programs provide instruction on a wide range of topics, including mathematics, biology, physics, astronomy, economics, art history and MCAT tutorials. Mr. Khan's earliest videos used a simple blackboard style, and even as more complex subjects have been introduced, his unassuming approach and sense of humor have preserved Khan Academy's accessibility and appeal for its online audience. Khan Academy can be used independently by students or as a tool in collaboration with teachers while employing its real-time performance tracking analytics. It is based on the ideal of "mastery learning," which enables each student to master a skill at his or her own pace before moving on to the next level.

Khan Academy can also help teachers dive more deeply into concepts. By leveraging the on-demand lessons on Khan Academy, teachers can spend more time working one on one with students or providing small group instruction.

"Human potential has always fascinated me. Even before Khan Academy was a thought in my mind, I observed that there are kids out there who want to be good students, but they weren't digesting the material in an intuitive way, and they hadn't had a chance to get a solid foundation in the concepts," said Salman Khan. "Khan Academy tries to help students be open and relaxed and to create a culture where they can be self-driven and directed. It makes them more confident in learning."

Khan Academy and its founder have been recognized around the world. Mr. Khan, who has three degrees from MIT and an MBA from Harvard, was included in *TIME* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012 and in the *Forbes* 40 Under 40 list in 2010 and 2011.

In addition to Mr. Khan, the 19th Heinz Awards honored the following individuals:

- **Arts and Humanities: Abraham Verghese, M.D.**, of Stanford, Calif. Dr. Verghese is being recognized for his work as a critically acclaimed best-selling author. His poignant stories document his belief and practice that healing must go beyond cures, diagnostic tests and technological advancements and must also address the sense of profound vulnerability patients feel when they are facing a major health crisis. Dr. Verghese is the Linda R. Meier and Joan F. Lane Provostial Professor and Vice Chair for the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Department of Medicine at Stanford University.
- **Environment: Jonathan Foley, Ph.D.**, of St. Paul, Minn. Dr. Foley is the director of the Institute on the Environment (IonE) at the University of Minnesota, where he is also a professor and McKnight Presidential Chair of Global Environment and Sustainability and director of the Global Landscapes Initiative, a collaborative of multiple stakeholders to address the challenges of population growth, climate change and food security. The Heinz Awards recognizes Dr. Foley for his pivotal research on the global environmental impact of agriculture as the world seeks to feed an ever-growing population.

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- **Public Policy: Sanjeev Arora, M.D.**, of Albuquerque, N.M. Dr. Arora is a liver disease specialist at the University of New Mexico. He is receiving the award for creating and expanding Project ECHO, or Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes, a growing national and global model that exponentially increases access to high-quality care by expanding workforce capacity and use of evidence-based medicine. Project ECHO, which uses widely-available video conferencing technology, has been replicated nationally and internationally and allows primary care clinicians to more effectively treat patients in rural and underserved areas who suffer from chronic conditions such as Hepatitis C, HIV, diabetes and psychiatric disorders.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Leila Janah**, of San Francisco, Calif. Ms. Janah is a social entrepreneur with a passion for empowering the impoverished to gain employment and improve their lives. She is being recognized for founding Samasource, a nonprofit that uses the power of technology and the Internet to provide training and employment or “microwork” opportunities, which are small, computer-based tasks, for women and youth in some of the poorest regions of the world. She has extended the concept with a similar program called SamaUSA, which is aimed at low-income digital workers at community colleges in the United States.

Recipients will officially receive their awards at a ceremony in Pittsburgh, Pa., on April 3, 2014. In addition to the monetary award of \$250,000, each recipient will receive a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: *To obtain photos of the recipients, please contact Christina Binz at christina.binz@bm.com or 412.394.6662.*

About the Heinz Awards

Established by Teresa Heinz in 1993 to honor the memory of her late husband, U.S. Senator John Heinz, the Heinz Awards celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of the Senator by recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals in the areas of greatest importance to him. The awards, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognize individuals for their contributions in the areas of Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Nominations are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously, and are reviewed by jurors appointed by the Heinz Family Foundation. The jurors make recommendations to the Board of Directors, which subsequently selects the Award recipients. For more information on the Heinz Awards, visit www.heinzawards.net.

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