



The McGraw-Hill Companies

THE HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR. PRIZE IN EDUCATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education?

- The prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education in this country and whose accomplishments are making a difference today.
- The Prize honors leaders in education whose innovative thinking, hard work and perseverance inspire us all to achieve a higher level in educating our young people.
- The honorees are bright, dedicated leaders who focus all their efforts and considerable talents on solutions to education's challenges.
- The Prize shines a spotlight on them, so others may learn from their examples.
- Barbara Bowman, Sharon Lynn Kagan and Ellen Moir are the 2005 Prize winners. Their careers have focused on improving our nation's education system, especially in the areas of early childhood education and teacher preparation.

Why is the Prize so important to The McGraw-Hill Companies?

- The McGraw-Hill Companies has a longstanding and deep commitment to education.
- We take great pride in recognizing educators and education policy makers who have made substantial and meaningful contributions to students, to their communities and ultimately to the future of our nation.
- The McGraw-Hill Companies, through its financial services, publishing, education technology, information and media services, helps people succeed in every stage of their lives.
- We are committed to the premise that the important information people need to improve their lives should be available everywhere in the world.
- At The McGraw-Hill Companies we are committed to making a difference in the lives of young people.

- The life work of the Prize winners underscores the necessity of providing all individuals with access to information and education, no matter what their socioeconomic backgrounds.

How did the Prize get started?

The McGraw-Hill Companies established the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education in 1988 to mark the Corporation's 100th anniversary, and to honor Mr. McGraw's lifelong commitment to education.

How are the Prize honorees selected?

Each year, leaders in the broad education community submit nominations to a distinguished panel of educators and education policy makers.* All nominations are considered by the Board of Judges if they meet eligibility requirements and include references of support from the education community.

Prize winners must have displayed a sense of innovation in attempting to creatively change, improve, enhance or further a specific area of education. Individuals may be nominated for lifetime achievement. Winners from teaching, administration or policy planning must have instituted or enhanced curricula, developed exceptional programs or improved policy. Winners from the business sector must display a sense of commitment beyond financial contributions and must have taken a significant leadership role in furthering a specific aspect of education.

Are Prize recipients required to use their \$25,000 awards towards anything specific?

Honorees are free to use the Prize award in any way they choose. Many honorees have donated the funds to the charity(ies) of their choice.

Who are some of the previous honorees?*

To receive the McGraw Prize, the honoree must demonstrate a commitment to advancing education. Past Prize honorees include well-known public figures, such as then First Lady Barbara Bush, former Governor James B. Hunt (NC), and former U.S. Secretaries of Education Rod Paige and Richard Riley, as well as individuals who have been quietly working to improve education within their local communities, such as Alicia Thomas, for her work as Principal of Jackson-Keller Elementary School in San Antonio, Dr. Arthur Greenberg, former Superintendent of Community School District 25 in Flushing, New

York, and Dr. Paul Elsner and Alfredo de los Santos, Jr., for their efforts as Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of Arizona's Maricopa Community College District.

Winners of the Prize in 2004 were Geoffrey Canada, President & CEO, Harlem Children's Zone; Robert Moses, Founder and President, Algebra Project Inc.; Cecilia Cunningham, Executive Director, The Middle College National Consortium, Laguardia Community College; and Janet Lieberman, Founder, Middle College High School.

****A list of the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education Board of Judges and a full list of past honorees are included in the press kit.***