

SIX WINNERS OF 2017 WISE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

WISE Awards Recognize Projects for Innovative Solutions to Urgent Education Challenges

Doha, Qatar, September 26, 2017 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a leading international initiative for innovation and collaboration in education, has named six winning projects of the 2017 WISE Awards, designed to recognize and promote innovative education initiatives around the world.

The 2017 WISE Awards winners:

42 (France/U.S.) – A free computer programming training program open to anyone between the ages of 18-30, whether they possess an academic degree or not. The program focuses on peer-to-peer learning and learning through group projects.

Lights to Learn (Spain/Latin America) – A program led by the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture to provide electricity and support quality education and community development in rural and marginalized regions of Latin America. It does so through the installation of photovoltaic systems, internet, IT equipment, teacher training, and community development.

PhET Interactive Simulations (U.S./global) – An engaging education solution that promotes science and math literacy through interactive simulations. It is founded by Nobel Laureate Carl Wieman and housed at University of Colorado Boulder.

The Learner Guide Program (Tanzania/U.K.) – A mentorship program led by Camfed Tanzania to support education and employment opportunities for young women in rural areas.

The Speed School project (U.S./global) – An intensive, child-centered program run by the Luminos Fund to enable out-of-school children to catch up to their grade level at government schools.

Ubongo Edutainment (Tanzania) – A Dar-es-Salaam-based initiative that provides fun learning to millions of children in Africa through animated educational content across multiple platforms including TV, SMS, and smart phones.

Commenting on the awards, Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, remarked: “From rural Tanzania and South America, to Silicon Valley and Paris, our six WISE Awards winners reflect the wide range of what can be achieved in advancing education – whatever the social or geographical context – when there is a creative solution and a determination to see it through. We look forward to showcasing our winners and runners-up at the WISE Summit in Doha in November, and to supporting their progress as they grow.”

The six winners were selected from a group of 15 finalists by a panel of expert judges.

To be selected, the winning projects were required to show success and innovation, demonstrating a transformative impact on individuals, communities, and society. They must be financially stable, have a clear development plan, and be scalable and replicable. The judging process, as well as on-site due diligence, was overseen by independent education consultants from Parthenon-EY.

The six WISE Awards winning projects, as well as the runners-up, will be celebrated at the eighth World Innovation Summit for Education, to be held from November 14-16, 2017, in Doha, Qatar. The application process for the 2018 WISE Awards will be launched at this time.

In addition to publicity and networking opportunities, each winning project receives \$20,000 (USD).

For further information, visit www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards

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About the WISE Awards:

Each year, the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global education challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received over 3,000 applications from more than 150 countries. To date, 54 projects from a wide variety of sectors and locations have won the WISE Awards for their innovation, positive contribution and potential for scalability and adaptability. These projects represent a growing resource of expertise and sound education practice. Year by year, WISE is building a community of education innovators which offers a fertile environment for ground-breaking collaboration. Today, the WISE Awards network comprises pioneering projects that are helping bring real change to societies and communities.

The six winning projects for 2017, along with the runners-up, will be invited to attend the eighth World Innovation Summit for Education, November 14-16, 2017, in Doha, Qatar.

About Parthenon-EY:

Parthenon-EY is a strategy consultancy committed to bringing unconventional yet pragmatic thinking together with our clients' smarts to deliver actionable strategies for real impact in today's complex business landscape. The Parthenon-EY Education practice has an explicit mission and vision to be the leading strategy advisor to the global education industry. To achieve this, the company invests significantly in dedicated management and team resources so that its global experience extends across public sector and not-for-profit education providers, foundations, for-profit companies and service providers, and investors. Parthenon-EY has delivered more than 1,000 education sector engagements across over 95 countries in the last 10 years. Parthenon-EY is a member of the global network of EY Firms.



About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

The World Innovation Summit for Education was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. WISE 2017 will take place in Doha November 14-16 under the theme: **“Co-Exist, Co-Create: Learning to Live and Work Together”**.

For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org