



February 25, 2014

Contacts: Jeff Donaldson

412.394.6619

jeff.donaldson@bm.com

Kim O'Dell

412.497.5775

kodell@heinzoffice.org

Environmental Advocate and Leading Voice on the Study of Complex Environmental Systems Receives Prestigious Heinz Award

Jonathan Foley Honored for His Work on Global Ecosystems and the Intersection of Agriculture, the Environment and the World's Food Supply

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 Jonathan Foley, Ph.D., director of the Institute on the Environment (IonE) at the University of Minnesota, as one of the five recipients of the 19th Heinz Awards. The winner of the Environment award, Dr. Foley serves as an important voice on the study of complex environmental systems and as a pioneer in understanding global ecosystems, land use and the environmental implications of modern agriculture. His recent work focuses on the dual challenge of feeding an ever-growing population while at the same time protecting our planet for this and future generations.

“As the world's population continues to grow, one of the most critical issues facing us in the coming decades will be how to produce enough food for everyone and at the same time manage the potentially devastating environmental impacts of an ever-expanding food production footprint. Jonathan Foley has been working to help us find that balance for more than 20 years, and if we succeed in finding it, it will likely be as a result of his efforts. Not only is his work educating the agricultural community, policy makers and the general public about the challenges and potential dangers facing us, but it is also offering possible paths forward through collaboration and new practices,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “His voice has been a source not of despair but of hope, promise and shared values as we look ahead to the challenges of feeding a hungry world.”

In response to the looming challenge of feeding the 9 billion-plus people anticipated to live on the planet in 2050, Dr. Foley worked with colleagues across the globe to develop a five-point plan to double the world's food production while also reducing the serious environmental impacts of agriculture. The plan, “Solutions for a Cultivated Planet,” has been published in *Nature* magazine and has become a landmark publication for scientists and policymakers addressing global food security for a range of organizations.

“The goal behind the five-point plan was to move beyond a simple ‘silver-bullet’ approach to our food challenges – which only addresses one problem at a time – and to look at a range of factors that would allow us to feed a growing population with increasing dietary demands and sustain our planet’s ecosystems, climate and natural resources,” said Dr. Foley. “That meant taking a deeper look at agriculture and finding opportunities to deliver more nutrition to the world while reducing waste, improving efficiency and sustaining the world’s ecosystems, freshwater resources and climate.”

Dr. Foley also directs the Global Landscapes Initiative (GLI), based at the IonE. GLI is developing and applying tools needed to characterize global land use, understand land use changes, assess trends in global agricultural supply and demand, improve efforts to balance human needs with environmental stewardship and promote secure landscapes across the globe. The program aims to build broad coalitions between diverse stakeholders, including environmental groups, think tanks, philanthropic foundations, businesses and scientists to address the linked challenges of global food security and environmental sustainability. Dr. Foley and his team are engaged in collaborative research projects that inform scientists, policymakers and lay audiences.

Dr. Foley’s career has long focused on helping people better understand the world’s environmental systems, including world-leading work in global ecosystems, climate change, land use, deforestation and food security. Dr. Foley and his students and colleagues have pioneered the development of computer models and global datasets to describe the world’s ecosystems, land use and agriculture. He also is a noted science communicator and has dedicated much of his career to mentoring young scientists to engage with decision makers and public audiences.

In addition to Dr. Foley, 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.
- **Human Condition: Salman Khan**, of Mountain View, Calif. Mr. Khan is founder of Khan Academy, a nonprofit educational organization that has revolutionized how millions of children and students of all ages across the globe are learning subjects as diverse as mathematics, biology, economics, art history and astronomy, all at their own pace. Khan Academy has grown into one of the most frequently used online education and learning tools in the world, providing more than 5,000 free tutorials and educational videos as well as real-time performance tracking analytics for students and teachers.

-more-

- **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, annually 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.

###