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Thursday, September 14, 2017**

The 22nd Heinz Awards Honors Five ‘Exemplary’ Individuals for Their Leadership, Innovation and Creativity

Heinz Family Foundation Announces \$1.25 Million in Awards

PITTSBURGH, September 14, 2017—The Heinz Family Foundation today announced the winners of the 22nd Heinz Awards, which will present unrestricted cash awards totaling \$1.25 million to five exceptional Americans whose leadership, innovation and creativity are breaking barriers in their fields, inspiring change and making a global impact for good.

This year’s recipients include a two-time Poet Laureate whose poetry and prose evoke powerful memories of southern history, race and experience through stories that are both tragic and hopeful; an ecologist whose science and technology for monitoring forest health by plane and with satellites is enabling scientists to visually penetrate the world’s rainforests, from verdant canopy down to formerly hidden mining and logging activities on the forest floor; a tireless advocate for the power of neighborhoods and the ability of communities to rise above circumstances when equipped and empowered with the right tools for education and training; a pediatrician and health policy advocate whose work to expose the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and to support families impacted by lead exposure has ignited renewed awareness and action on the issue of lead exposure and drinking water safety; and a chemist whose singular work in nanomedicine, 3D printing and green chemistry is moving revolutionary new technologies into the marketplace.

As part of the accolade, each recipient will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000.

“This year’s awardees are exemplary models of the powerful changes for good that can be attained when outstanding talent, skill and achievement are aligned with a passion for people and planet,” said Teresa Heinz, Chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “Although their fields of endeavor are very different, each of the men and women that we honor has demonstrated remarkable persistence in the face of barriers, and an unwavering determination to develop solutions that contribute to a healthier world, a more just society and a more vibrant economy. At a time when rancor and divisiveness threaten to divide us, their grace and generosity in sharing and applying the knowledge they have gained reminds us all that people’s capacity for good remains, and that there is much more we can achieve. This is the true spirit of the Heinz Awards.”

Created to honor the memory of the late U.S. Senator John Heinz, and now in its 22nd year, the Heinz Awards program recognizes remarkable contributions in five areas of great importance to Senator Heinz: Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. This year’s recipients by category are:

- **Arts and Humanities: Natasha Trethewey, Evanston, Illinois**
The Heinz Awards recognizes Ms. Trethewey for her achievements as a two-term Poet Laureate, writer and memoirist whose exquisitely crafted poems explore the complex history of racial and

social inequity in the American South, and the memories of her own experiences growing up in Mississippi as the daughter of an African-American mother and a white father. Ms. Trethewey is characterized as an enthusiastic and inspirational mentor dedicated to nurturing the next generation of poets, and her writings display a remarkable ability to tell stories that are both tragic and hopeful, exposing racial and social inequality in the American South in work that is poignant and painful, yet infused with elements of joy. Her body of writings, and her work as a professor and mentor, have impacted and continue to broaden the influence of poetry in the lives of Americans young and old.

- **Environment: Gregory Asner, Ph.D., Stanford, California**

The Heinz Awards recognizes ecologist Dr. Greg Asner for his pioneering techniques that measure the chemistry, structure and biodiversity of forests—and the impact of deforestation, land degradation, mining and climate change on forests and ecosystems—in unprecedented detail through high-tech satellite and aircraft imaging instrumentation. His imaging techniques allow for unparalleled detail on the health of individual trees as well as forest makeup as a whole, and his findings are awakening scientists, policymakers and government leaders to the true rates of forest change in the Amazon Basin, and contributing to efforts to monitor and protect ecosystems in the United States and across the globe. Dr. Asner’s remote sensing system has made it possible to “see” below the forest canopy to identify logging, mining and land clearing that previously went undetected, and to measure the impact of those practices on the health, biodiversity and mass of the rain and cloud forests of Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Borneo and South Africa.

- **Human Condition: Angela Blanchard, Houston, Texas**

The Heinz Awards recognizes Ms. Blanchard for her more than 30 years of community development work based on her belief that neighborhoods should be defined by their resources, achievements and hopes, not by their degree of need or brokenness. Her innovative, strength-based framework, Appreciative Community Building, developed at BakerRipley (formerly known as Neighborhood Centers) in Houston, Texas, relies on community input to guide staff and volunteers in all decisions, such as the selection and provision of business and computer skill training, GED instruction, job search assistance, preparation for citizenship exams, assistance in negotiating the complexities of immigration law, and management of Head Start programs, charter schools, trade industry training, welcome centers and other service centers. Working closely with the region’s rapidly expanding foreign-born population, Ms. Blanchard has developed a process for revitalizing metropolitan areas into healthy, thriving communities that are welcoming, rich in diversity and stand as a model for cities across the United States.

- **Public Policy: Mona Hanna-Attisha, M.D., Flint, Michigan**

The Heinz Awards recognizes pediatrician and public health policy advocate Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha for her courageous efforts to expose elevated levels of lead present in children living in Flint, Michigan, and to renew awareness of the critical health issues created by preventable lead exposure and water supply infrastructure deficiencies around the country. Despite initial pushback from officials in Michigan, her research, public statements and tireless advocacy efforts on behalf of children have forced national attention to the profound and lifelong impacts of lead exposure. Dr. Hanna-Attisha is a leader in the establishment of comprehensive, long-term support programs for children and families traumatically affected by lead exposure, and her ongoing policy work is aimed at protecting children from this serious environmental health hazard, not

only in Flint, but also in cities around the country where it is estimated millions of people remain at risk due to unsafe water supplies.

- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Joseph DeSimone, Ph.D., Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Redwood City, California**

The Heinz Awards recognizes Dr. Joseph DeSimone, a chemist and expert in polymeric materials, for his innovative research and for commercializing new technologies in a number of cutting-edge fields such as 3D printing, nanoparticle fabrication and green chemistry. Dr. DeSimone's work merges life, physical and engineering sciences with the goal of fostering innovation in how things are made in order to improve the human condition. He is noted for the breakthrough development of CLIP, a new approach that is moving 3D printing into large-scale 3D manufacturing for the first time; and for PRINT, a soft lithographic technique that uses the tools of the computer industry to fabricate tiny nanoparticles out of pure pharmaceutical ingredients for delivery of vaccines, pain treatment and cancer therapeutics.

Winners of the 22nd Heinz Awards will be honored in Pittsburgh on October 18, 2017.

To date, the Heinz Awards has recognized 133 individuals and awarded more than \$26 million to the honorees. This year's award total is \$1.25 million. For more information on the awardees, visit <http://heinzawards.net/2017>.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: To obtain photos of the recipients, please contact Abby Manishor at amanishor@burness.com or 917-539-3308.

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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.

Contacts: Abby Manishor

917-539-3308

amanishor@burness.com

Kim O'Dell

412-497-5775

kodell@heinzoffice.org