



*The* 1997  
Harold W.  
McGraw, Jr.  
*Prize in Education*

*10th Anniversary: 1988-1997*



The McGraw-Hill Companies

# *The* Harold W. McGraw, Jr. *Prize in Education*

These are times of enormous challenge for American education. But they are also times of renewed hope, great creativity—and many unsung heroes. Since 1988, The McGraw-Hill Companies, as part of its advocacy of education, has publicly recognized some of those heroes, celebrating their efforts with the annual Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. This prize was established to mark The McGraw-Hill Companies' 100th anniversary and in honor of the corporation's Chairman Emeritus in acknowledgment of his lifelong commitment to improving American education.

Each year since 1988, three educators have been selected annually out of a field of many deserving individuals for special recognition. But this year is a special one—the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of these awards. For that reason, we have elected to choose not three, but four honorees whose work is making a difference today.

This year's award winners reflect the diverse face of education in the U.S. today. Most of all, they underline a spirit of achievement, of unflinching faith in the possibility that all students can succeed. We are, therefore, most pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education and their achievements.

## *The Eligibility Requirement*

Only individuals who are presently committed to the cause of education are eligible. Institutions, boards, organizations and other groups are not. The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin. Employees, retirees or relatives of employees or retirees of The McGraw-Hill Companies are not eligible. Neither are the Board of Judges, nor their relatives. Individuals may be nominated in the areas of teaching, administration, policy planning, business, government, publishing and adult education.

## *Nomination Procedures*

Each year, a Nominating Committee consisting of leaders in the education community across the country will submit nominations to the Board of Judges. In addition, the Board of Judges will consider nominations received directly, if they meet eligibility requirements and include references from the education community.

## *The Judging Criteria*

The following criteria will be used in selecting the recipients of the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. 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.

### *Barbara Bush*

As First Lady, Barbara Bush had a tremendous opportunity to focus national attention on what she describes as "the most important issue we face today"—the cause of literacy. By founding the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in 1989, Mrs. Bush has helped break the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy by improving the reading skills of tens of thousands of parents and their children.

But Barbara Bush's dedication to the cause of literacy does not end with her foundation. Visiting literacy programs across the nation to lend her support, she helps to enhance the impact of these programs across the land.

As the nation's public champion of literacy, Barbara Bush uses her energy, visibility and commitment in the deeply held belief that if more people could read, write and comprehend, our society could solve many of the social, economic and political problems that trouble us.

### *JW Carmichael, Jr.*

Dr. JW Carmichael, a chemistry professor and pre-med advisor at Xavier University, has spent his career proving that human potential can be developed and is not class, race or economically determined. His work has helped to change the way science and mathematics are taught at independent colleges.

Dr. Carmichael has raised standardized test scores dramatically and has helped African-American graduates of Xavier University gain double the national average for admission to prestigious medical and dental schools. And, of those accepted, 95% finish medical school.

The programs Dr. Carmichael has created at Xavier serve as a model for programs across the country. As a result, his impact is being felt far beyond his original sphere of influence—a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his educational life to the principle that "intelligence *can* be taught."

### *Diana Natalicio, Ph.D.*

During Dr. Diana Natalicio's ten years as president of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), the university has seen unprecedented growth and development, gaining international acclaim as an example of the power of diversity. As the largest Hispanic-majority university in the U.S., UTEP today serves as a model for successfully creating educational opportunities for working-class minority students and for improving the quality of life in its surrounding community through numerous outreach initiatives.

Under Dr. Natalicio's leadership, UTEP has increased minority student participation in science and engineering and contributes significantly to the pool of minority professionals entering these fields—two areas in which Hispanics are dramatically underrepresented.

Dr. Natalicio has changed the complexion of higher education by developing and implementing strategies to provide access to higher education to underrepresented groups.

### *Vera M. White*

Since her introduction of character education into Jefferson Junior High School, the Washington, D.C. public school she serves as principal, Vera White has transformed the school both socially and academically. Her belief in character education, a deliberate effort to teach right and wrong through good example, the curriculum and the total school environment, is instrumental in the culture of the school.

Under Ms. White, character education has become a powerful vehicle for academic achievement for her minority student body. Attendance is among the highest in the District of Columbia's schools. Thefts, fights and pregnancies have declined significantly.

Ms. White has accomplished all this by harnessing the resources of all members of her school community—the students themselves, their parents, community and corporate leaders and teachers—to help students discover, believe and demonstrate that they can learn and succeed in whatever they wish to accomplish.