The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that benefits society by inspiring and empowering intellectually gifted people. Support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and other charitable donations. Donations are deductible in the United States for income tax purposes. Information on all the Foundation’s programs and activities can be found at mensafoundation.org.

1200 E. Copeland Road, Ste. 550, Arlington, Texas 76011 | mensafoundation.org
Small acts of kindness can make a difference in other people’s lives–even when we can imagine them. —Catherine Pulfer

THIS QUOTE REMINDED ME of people who are there for us throughout our lives. Sometimes the strongest and fondest memories are those when someone’s assistance was unexpected. Maybe a friend’s parent helped you achieve a unique challenge by providing logistical and emotional support and when you needed it. Or you had (or wish you had) a teacher who went the extra mile to help you and other students. Maybe they helped you access books in the big “school” library because you had read everything in your classroom and were bored. Or maybe they challenged you to explore your ideas and taught you how to find answers for your questions. Don’t you wish every student had a teacher like that?

Those memories easily become the impetus to help someone else when we need it. We can remember how needed and welcome that extra nudge, encouragement, and assistance felt while working hard to achieve a goal.

So, what does this have to do with the Mensa Foundation? Actually … everything. These are examples of how our programs have an impact well beyond their reach. That student whose love of reading was fostered and supported — they will do the same with their students.

It’s about paying it forward, how all of us help make the world a better place by making a difference. The longer I work with the Foundation, the more I realize and appreciate what can be accomplished when people care. Some people are there with aplomb and presence; others work quietly backstage where needed. Just as we plant shade trees for a future generation to enjoy, so do our efforts become part of effecting change in the future.

All of you who contribute in some way to the Foundation’s programs and efforts are part of achieving our mission to benefit society by inspiring and empowering intellectually gifted people. You may contribute your time, your dollars, your talent, or some combination of these. Any and all of these are investments in the Foundation’s work to ensure that we use our intelligence to benefit humanity.

Make an investment in intelligence. Those who are treasured donors and volunteers, thank you; you make our programs possible and give them impact. If you haven’t yet donated or volunteered, don’t you wish you had? Even a small gesture can ripple through to make a vast difference. You, too, can be part of investing in the future.

By Marie Mayer, Foundation President

Lifetime Achievement Award
Recognizing a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects

Dean Keith Simonton's interest in human intelligence arose, in part, from a youthful enthusiasm for the classical arts, sciences, and humanities. That curiosity and interest in the origins of genius led to a prolific research career. Dr. Simonton is the Distinguished Professor in Psychology at the University of California, Davis. With a master's and doctorate from Harvard, his preferred research approach is histometric, using the tools of history, biography, and psychometrics to extrapolate principles about human behavior. His 300-plus books, chapters and articles explore genius, creativity, leadership, talent, and aesthetics. "My view of intelligence ... says that there are a certain set of cognitive capacities that enable an individual to adapt and thrive in any given environment they find themselves in, and those cognitive capacities include things like memory and retrieval, and problem solving and so forth," Dr. Simonton said. His numerous awards include the Award for Excellence in Research (1986, 2009) from the Mensa Foundation.

Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement
Recognizing an outstanding creative achievement by a member of American Mensa

For only the second time, the accomplishments of a single nominee have earned that member two Mensa Foundation awards. This dual recipient, Mayank Kejriwal, conducts research in the Center on Knowledge Graphs at the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute, with a focus on developing high-impact artificial intelligence technology. "I am a passionate advocate of using AI for social good and for ensuring that the fruits of technological development are distributable to all," said Dr. Kejriwal, who is being honored for his work combating human trafficking. The National Institute for Labor Organization estimates 4.8 million people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally. Dr. Kejriwal, who has degrees from the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Texas at Austin, and USC, developed an AI system -- Domain-specific Insight Graphs (DIG) -- that has been deployed to more than 200 U.S. law enforcement agencies. DIG is essentially a search engine that finds and downloads sex advertisements to a secure computer, "reads" the ads, and helps law enforcement explore leads on crimes with high accuracy. The impact has been significant. In New York State, for example, evidence shows that prostitution arrests investigated for human trafficking activity have gone from lower than 1 percent prior to implementation of DIG to more than 62 percent today, with the focus less on punishing victims and more on the endeavors of their "boyfriends." Dr. Kejriwal continues to use his AI expertise in other ways, such as resource mobilization during the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Harvey as well as detecting fake news on the internet.

Gifted Education Fellowship
To assist outstanding educators in acquiring a graduate degree in gifted education or a closely related field from an accredited institution of higher education

"How can we, as a nation, ensure that we are investing in and utilizing our greatest national capital, the minds of our children?" That question has driven Lynne Henwood in the seven years since she joined the Washington Township (N.J.) school district to identify and teach gifted students. Her journey now includes pursuing a master’s of educational psychology at the University of Connecticut, learning that “will allow me to develop an even deeper understanding of gifted children and their needs,” Henwood said. Her body of work, which was honored with the 2018 New Jersey Association of Gifted Children (NJAGC) Teacher of the Year award, includes joining the NJAGC board of trustees, testifying at the state board of education in support of gifted rights, and training in advance Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress on behalf of gifted children.

Distinguished Teacher Award
Recognizing a teacher, professor or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensan

Like music itself, music teacher Marcia Blackstone Mauli’s impact resonates across time and space. Her students have become luminaries in the field, she informs students in Africa, Europe, Asia, and America. Mensan Ingrid Bianca Byerly remembers the moment -- her 15th birthday -- when Mauli arrived at the Music, Arts and Ballet School in South Africa and cast her inspirational spell. “She championed unique assets and tended individual challenges. … What stayed with me most, however, was not just the detail of small phrases or large works. It was what she shared about the art of mastery, the discipline and focus that result in the euphoria of realizing one’s aptitudes." Today, Mauli still teaches and is the Head of Theory Program and board member at the Music Educators Association of New Jersey. Mauli’s “accuracy of influence” is still connecting countless lives, “My 15th birthday may be a distant memory,” Ingrid says, “But between 15 and 60 lie 45 years of inspiration that have affected my every day and every student that I teach now, too.”

International Intellectual Benefits to Society Award
Recognizing the application of Mensans' intellectual abilities that result in tangible benefit to society by a member of Mensa

Guilherme Moisés Sampaio, a member of Mensa Brazil and a professor of physics at the Federal University of São Carlos, is fascinated by magnetism, specifically magnetic nanoparticles and the phenomena known as superparamagnetism. His latest project is exploring the biomedical applications of magnetic nanoparticules such as magnetite, maghemite, and hematite; these applications include the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, the vectorization of drugs, and the contrast enhancement in magnetic resonance imaging. The work takes a comprehensive view on globalization, integrating the knowledge from the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, and medicine. Additionally, with less than 1 percent of the world’s population above the age of 62 years, there are a certain set of cognitive capacities that enable an individual to adapt and thrive in any given environment they find themselves in, and those cognitive capacities include things like memory and retrieval, and problem solving and so forth," Dr. Simonton said. His numerous awards include the Award for Excellence in Research (1986, 2009) from the Mensa Foundation.

Laura Joyner Award
Recognizing outstanding work, theoretical or applied, in education, literacy or work with the gifted, or identifying threats to or preventing the loss of intelligence

Veterans and athletes are often thought of as the main victims of concussions, but the Barrow Neurological Institute has created the first U.S. program to treat and study domestic violence survivors with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Domestic violence is estimated to affect 10 million people annually, and because of the Barrow Institute’s work, women who previously suffered in silence are becoming more aware of real issues resulting from their abuse. Based in Phoenix, the Barrow program founders identified a three-way link between homelessness, domestic violence, and TBI. Dr. Glynis Zeman, who runs the clinic, told NPR last year, “About 81 percent of our patients had so many hits to the head, they lost count, which, you compare that to athletes, is astronomical.”

Working with shelters to identify victims of domestic violence, the program provides patients with a full spectrum of medical care with the goal of returning them to living healthy, productive lives. The care is free, whether patients have insurance or not, thanks to grants and private donations.

Mensa Foundation Prize
Recognizing applied and fundamental discoveries in areas such as brain-related research, creation of tools and mechanisms for advancing such research, or any significant research that leads to an improved understanding of human intelligence, including artificial intelligence

Professor Aron K. Barby has significantly advanced the neuroscience of brain connectivity with his innovative research applying functional magnetic resonance imaging to the mapping of brain lesions and measuring their effects on raw intelligence. Dr. Barby is conducting his groundbreaking research on the connection between neural architecture and intelligence at the Center for Brain Plasticity, where he is director, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. “Dr. Barby’s work was unique in that he is a rare scientist studying actual human general intelligence and integrating its quantitative measure with a variety of biological experimental measures in a multidisciplinary model,” said Dr. Susan Stine, a neuroscientist and member of the Foundation Prize Committee. Dr. Barby becomes the second winner of the prestigious Mensa Foundation Prize, which is awarded biennially and includes a $10,000 prize.

Awards For Excellence in Research
Recognize outstanding research on aspects of human intelligence and giftedness. This year’s recipients are:

2019 Senior Division
Joseph Renzulli, University of Connecticut, “Common Sense About the Representation Issue: A School Wide Approach to Increase Participation of Diverse Students in Programs that Develop Talents and Gifted Behaviors in Young People” (coauthor Laurel E. Brandon)
Jonathan Wai, University of Arkansas, “See Differences in Ability in the Right Tail of Cognitive Abilities: A 35-Year Examination” (coauthor Jared Hodges and Matthew C. Makel)

2019 Junior Division
Juliana Tay, Purdue University, “Parental Perceptions of STEM Enrichment for Young Children” (coauthors Alissa Salazar and Hyeseong Lee)

The Mensa Research Journal highlights scholarly articles and recent research related to intelligence from a diverse selection of international authors. It is relevant for those researching intelligence, specially curated for Mensans, and is available for $27/year. The summer issue looks at memory, including the effects of memory on learning and cognition. While there may be no cure for memory aging, this issue will explore how to make the most of what we have. One makes this past year explored exceptional geniuses and the work of “founder of neuropsychology” Brenda Milner. Subscribe to the MRJ at mensaorganization.org/mrj.
**GIFTED YOUTH**

The Foundation is committed to educational outreach and social stimulation for gifted youth, funding and supporting myriad programs. See how at mensaфонdation.org/giftedyouth

**Scholarships**

The longest-running and best-known effort by the Foundation to support human intelligence, the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program bases its awards totally on essays written by applicants. In the 2018-19 program year, 8,765 students competed for 186 scholarship awards at the local, regional, national, and international level. With the help of hundreds of volunteer chairs and judges nationwide and the support of the National Office, the Foundation awarded $138,200 in scholarships.

**MensaForKids.org**

The award-winning Mensa for Kids website (MensaForKids.org) features a trove of resources for gifted youth, their families, and teachers. It’s the place to learn about scholarships, the Mensa Honor Society, and the Excellence in Reading program, the year-round challenge to kids of all ages based on the National Endowment for the Humanities appreciation of classic literature. Young Mensian magazine, Bright newsletter, and games round out the activities for kids. The site also features resources for teachers, including lesson and activity plans.

**Spark!**

Activities for Young Mensans have been provided at each American Mensa Annual Gathering since 1997. Under the Mensa Foundation’s sponsorship, the program has flourished. The multiple-day program track for youth is supervised by Gathering youth program or other official American Mensa events to present their research. Fellows may also be invited to teach a section of classes for the Annual Gathering youth program or contribute lesson plans for the Mensa for Kids website.

Lynne Henwood is in the Gifted Education Fellowship’s first recipient. A New Jersey Association for Gifted Children Gifted Teacher of the Year, she is pursuing a Master’s in educational psychology.

**DEVELOPMENT UPDATE & OUTLOOK**

Thank you for investing in intelligence!

Your increased donation of your time, treasure, and talent to the Mensa Foundation has doubled the amount contributed to the Foundation’s general fund and has ballooned the number of supporters by more than 30 percent. This has assisted the Mensa Foundation to achieve heights of success never before seen. As a result, the Foundation is increasing its average scholarship amount, awarding a new Gifted Education Fellowship, increasing the awareness of the Foundation, and the best part...

We are just getting started!

The Mensa Foundation empowers intelligence and emboldens the strengths and talents in us all. This excites change and inspires action for the betterment of society.

The Foundation will continue to do this by focusing its efforts toward the gifted education arena, increasing the resources and recognition it provides to individuals using their intelligence. The Foundation will also continue to look at ways it can increase its advocacy for the talented, and it will work with new partners to enhance existing programs and develop additional ones.

Lastly, the Mensa Foundation will identify even more ways to work alongside American Mensa to support its goals and plans.

An investment in the Mensa Foundation is an investment in the awareness of the Foundation, and the best part...

An investment in the Mensa Foundation is an investment in intelligence, and with it you will assist the Foundation become the premier philanthropic organization for intelligence. Thank you again for your support!

John Thompson, Philanthropy Director
john@americanmensa.org
Thank you to all our donors! We couldn’t do it without you!

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