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2021 WISE Prize for Education Goes to Wendy Kopp, CEO and Co-founder of Teach For All

Doha, Qatar (December 7, 2021) – Today, at its annual conference in Doha, the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) presented its renowned WISE Prize for Education to the CEO and Co-founder of Teach For All, Wendy Kopp. The prestigious award recognizes Kopp for her contribution to promoting educational equity through building Teach For All, a global network of national organizations sharing solutions across borders for classrooms and communities, to ensure all children can fulfil their potential.

“We’re grateful for this honor and recognition of Teach For All’s theory of change,” said Kopp. “We cannot solve the inequities in access to education without collective leadership—many diverse people working together, across the whole system, recognizing their ability to address problems, constantly learning, and pushing and supporting each other. Complex problems can only be solved by many people working together—no one person can do it alone.” The prize funding will contribute to the Future of Education Fund created by Teach For All to support its network partners.

Established in 2009 by Qatar Foundation, the WISE Prize for Education is the first global distinction of its kind to acknowledge an individual for an outstanding contribution to education. The award celebrates Kopp for her long-term dedication to addressing educational inequity. In 1989, she founded Teach For America, whose approach has since been adapted by social entrepreneurs in 61 countries, who are part of the Teach For All network.

While the circumstances facing children look different from country to country, the root causes and challenges to addressing them are often similar. Through the Teach For All network, staff, teachers and alumni of network partners can connect with peers from around the world, learn from each other’s insights, ideas, and innovations and adapt solutions to their own countries’ and local communities’ needs. This allows everyone to make progress more quickly, by working together.

“Wendy’s work exemplifies what we so passionately believe in at WISE – the conviction that everyone deserves quality education and you can achieve it through creating a virtuous, international network by sharing best practice and involving communities,” said Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE. “This prize is in recognition of a lifetime’s contribution to education and a constant spirit of innovation.”

Each partner in the Teach For All network inspires ambitious graduates and professionals from all fields to channel their passion towards ensuring all children have the education, support, and opportunities that enable them to shape their futures, and a better world. In turn, these individuals commit to teach for at least two years in the under-resourced schools and communities where they are needed most. Through on-going support from Teach For All partner organizations, they become effective classroom leaders and determined advocates for their students. Their teaching experience and deep belief in the potential of every child serves as the foundation for a lifetime of advocating for the systemic changes necessary to ensure all kids can thrive.

Since its inception, the partners in the Teach For All network have collectively placed more than 100,000 teachers across 6 continents. The vast majority, 75%, continue working to expand opportunities for children as alumni, and go on to become educators, policymakers, advocates and social entrepreneurs.

**To request multimedia assets, or an interview with Wendy Kopp,
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