BERKLEY CENTER
for Religion, Peace & World Affairs
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

$1 Million Opus Prize Finalists Announced

Winner of faith-based humanitarian award to be announced at Georgetown University in November

WASHINGTON (September 16)—After a worldwide search, Georgetown University and the Opus Prize Foundation announced today the finalists for the tenth annual $1 million Opus Prize given to an unsung hero in the field of development for whom faith has inspired his or her work. The finalists are: the Fahmina Institute in Indonesia; Sister Carol Keehan, president of the Catholic Health Association in Washington, DC; and Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning in Afghanistan. This $1 million faith-based humanitarian award and awards for the other finalists are collectively one of the world's largest faith-based, humanitarian awards for social innovation.

The Fahmina Institute, based in Cirebon, Indonesia, is active in the fields of religious studies, civil society building, and community empowerment. It arose out of the struggles of young students in Islamic boarding schools who wanted to raise awareness about the need to expand the schools' intellectual traditions and social ethos. Today it is considered to be one of the major centers for progressive Islamic research, teaching, and community organizing in Indonesia, with a growing network of partners in Malaysia, the Philippines, and southern Thailand.

Sister Carol Keehan is a Daughter of Charity and president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association (CHA). In her current position, she played a significant role in the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Before joining CHA, Sister Carol worked in administrative and governance positions at hospitals sponsored by the Daughters of Charity for more than 35 years, including Ascension Health's Sacred Heart Health System, in Florida, and Providence Hospital, which includes Carroll Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in Washington, DC.

Sakena Yacoobi is the founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), an Afghan women-led NGO that provides teacher training to Afghan women, supports education for boys and girls, and provides health education to women and children. AIL works at the grassroots level to empower women and communities to find ways to bring education and health services to rural and urban girls, women, and other poor and disenfranchised Afghans. It was the first organization to offer human rights and leadership training to Afghan women. It now serves 350,000 women and children each year in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In making the announcement, Georgetown President John J. DeGioia said:
"This year's finalists are inspiring examples of the positive difference that each of us can make in our communities and indeed our world. They embody the Jesuit principle of being women and men in service of others, and we are honored to host them on campus this fall, for both the awards ceremony and discussions with our students."

Don Neureuther, spokesperson for the Opus Prize Foundation said:
"The foundation is excited for Georgetown to host the tenth year of the Opus Prize. The university's commitment to its Catholic identity, interfaith dialogue, service to others, and educating the next generation of global citizens makes it a great partner for this unique and special prize."

Tickets for the awards ceremony on November 13 will be available to the Georgetown University community and wider public starting in early October.

For more information, visit berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/opusprize or opusprize.org.

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About the Opus Prize Foundation
The Opus Prize Foundation is a private and independent nonprofit foundation. Established in 1994 by the founding chairman of earlier Opus Companies, the Opus Prize Foundation is a self-sufficient foundation independent from The Opus Group. The foundation selects universities as partners to organize and execute the Opus Prize selection process and award ceremony. Through these partnerships, students are challenged to think globally and inspired to live lives of service.

About Georgetown University
Established in 1789, Georgetown is the nation's oldest Catholic and Jesuit university. Drawing upon this legacy, we provide students with a world-class learning experience focused on educating the whole person through exposure to different faiths, cultures and beliefs. With our Jesuit values and location in Washington, D.C., Georgetown offers students a distinct opportunity to learn, experience and understand more about the world.