

INJUSTICE
INHUMANITY
INTOLERANCE
INDIFFERENCE

THE ECHO FOUNDATION

2021 ECHO ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY & KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

"...The Echo Foundation emerged as a source of energy, imagination and hope. Driven by a sense of urgency, its struggle against hatred and indifference has already reverberated far beyond Charlotte and North Carolina. In the years to come, it will surely continue to inspire youth, affect society and occupy a place of honor on the national scene."

ELIE WIESEL

On March 12, 1997, internationally revered humanitarian and Nobel Laureate for Peace, Elie Wiesel spoke “Against Indifference” to over 23,000 students and adults. So inspired was he by this visit to Charlotte, that, as he left, he challenged the community to act on its convictions in the critical areas of human dignity, justice and moral courage.

Through cutting-edge educational programs, The Echo Foundation develops in young people the moral and intellectual tools necessary to cause positive change in their local and global communities. Echo initiatives use the power of example to inspire action on critical issues of human rights and social justice. Experiential learning opportunities, programs using the arts in service to humankind and facilitating dialogue in the pursuit of innovative solutions are hallmarks of the organization. Each year, The Echo Foundation

brings world-renowned humanitarians to Charlotte to deliver messages that galvanize souls to action on behalf of humankind.

We do this so that we may build a city that embraces racial diversity, culture and tolerance. We bring together people from all corners of the region to act on their highest principles through student dialogues, teacher workshops, musical programs, creative projects and more. The Echo Foundation is a nonprofit education foundation for humanity, with an International Board of Advisors and governed by a Charlotte Board of Trustees.

“JUSTICE IS THE FIRST CONDITION OF HUMANITY.”

WOLE SOYINKA NOBEL LAUREATE FOR LITERATURE

PARTICIPATING HUMANITARIANS

- Peter Agre**, 2003 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
- Ben Bernanke**, Former Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
- Gunter Blobel**, 1999 Nobel Laureate in Medicine
- Wesley K. Clark (Re.)**, Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, NATO
- Syl Cheney-Coker**, Sierra Leonean Exile, Poet & Novelist
- Aaron Ciechanover**, 2004 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
- Robert F. Drinan**, Congressman, Priest, Lawyer & Human Rights Advocate
- Paul Farmer**, Founder, Partners in Health
- Charles Fawcett**, Rescuer, Varian Fry's American Relief Center
- Edmond Fischer**, 1992 Nobel Laureate in Medicine
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Chairman, Harvard African & African American Studies Department
- Kerry Kennedy**, President, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights
- Jonathan Kozol**, Author & Activist
- Harry Kroto**, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
- Bernard Kouchner**, Founder, Doctors Without Borders & Former French Foreign minister
- Barbara Mooyaart-Doubleday**, Translator, Anne Frank's *A Diary of a Young Girl*
- Denis Mukwege**, 2018 Nobel Laureate for Peace & Founder, Panzi Hospital
- Christiane Nusslein-Volhard**, 1995 Nobel Laureate in Medicine
- Douglas Osheroff**, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Physics
- Samantha Power**, Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations
- John Prendergast**, Africa Policy Expert & Co-Founder, The Enough Project
- Michael Rich**, Country Coordinator, Rwanda, Partners in Health
- Robert Richardson**, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Physics
- John Rucyahana**, Rwandan Anglican Bishop & Founder, Sonrise School
- Jeffrey Sachs**, Director, Columbia University Earth Institute
- Oliver Smithies**, 2007 Nobel Prize in Medicine
- Wole Soyinka**, 1986 Nobel Laureate in Literature
- Elie Wiesel**, 1986, Nobel Laureate for Peace
- Harry Wu**, Chinese Dissident & Executive Director, Laogai Research Foundation

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NICHOLAS KRISTOF

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Born on April 27, 1959, Mr. Kristof grew up on a cherry farm near Yamhill, Oregon, and raised sheep for his Future Farmers of America project. He graduated from Harvard College in three years, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1981, and then won first class honors in his study of law at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. He later studied Arabic in Cairo and Chinese in Taipei. After working in France, he caught the travel bug and began backpacking around Africa and Asia, writing articles to cover his expenses. Mr. Kristof has lived on four continents, reported on six, and traveled 100 countries. He has had unpleasant experiences with malaria, mobs, war and an African airplane crash. Mr. Kristof joined The New York Times in October 1984, initially covering economics.

After that, he served as a business correspondent based in Los Angeles, Hong Kong bureau chief, Beijing bureau chief and Tokyo bureau chief. In 2000, he covered the presidential campaign and in particular Governor Bush. He is the author of the chapter on Mr. Bush in the reference book *The Presidents*. In 1990 Mr. Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, also a Times journalist, won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square democracy movement. They were the first married couple to win a Pulitzer for journalism. Mr. Kristof has won other prizes including the George Polk Award and the Overseas Press Club awards.

Mr. Kristof and Ms. WuDunn are authors of *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power* and *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia*. Mr. Kristof and Ms. WuDunn are the parents of Gregory, Geoffrey and Caroline. Mr. Kristof enjoys running, backpacking in the Oregon Cascades, and having his Chinese and Japanese corrected by his children.

KATHERINE BELK MORRIS

2021 AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE RECIPIENT



Katie B. Morris is a community activist and volunteer. She is immediate past board chair of Read Charlotte and the Belk Foundation, where she is a current trustee. An active member of the community, Katie has participated on several education boards across North Carolina including Project LIFT, Davidson College, Sandhills Community College Foundation and Union Presbyterian Seminary. She currently serves on the boards of Queens University and Levine Museum of the New South and is an Elder at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. She holds an M.B.A. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. degrees in Economics and Religion from Duke University. She and her husband enjoy spending time with their three grown children and seven grandchildren. "I believe all children can achieve. I have seen this personally at schools across our region. Reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation.

Unfortunately, most of our students in Mecklenburg do not read well. A jarring statistic: 80% of African American and Hispanic 4th grade boys in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are unable to read proficiently, according to the 2019 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). We must do better. Our future depends on it. That's why in 2015, I helped found Read Charlotte, a community wide effort to double the number of third graders reading proficiently from 40% to 80% by 2025. In addition to my work with Read Charlotte on systematic change, I volunteer weekly with an amazing student at Billingsville Elementary who has made strides in reading. Each of my brothers and I believe education is the critical path towards opportunity and life success. We dedicate time and energy to working on the ground with the community in addition to providing financial support."

THOMAS M. "TIM" BELK, JR.

2021 AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE RECIPIENT



Thomas M. "Tim" Belk Jr. is the retired chairman and chief executive officer of Belk, Inc. A member of the third generation to lead Belk, he left in July 2016 after more than 35 years at the company. Since retirement, Tim, his wife, Sarah, and their daughter, Katherine ("Peanut"), started Wild Hope Farm, an organic farm collectively benefiting the community and the surrounding ecosystem. Tim currently serves on the boards of The Orvis Company, Elements Brands and Gas Fired Products. An active member of the community, he also serves on the boards of the Belk Foundation, The Carolina Thread Trail, Good Fellows and Williams College. He is the recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine and the Distinguished Eagle Award.

He and Sarah have five adult children. "Charlotte is a growing city with many amenities. We have professional sports teams, a healthy urban core, cultural arts complex, and good educational institutions. But just as Charlotte has grown, it has raised the question of who is participating in this prosperity and who isn't. Other issues that have always been there, such as sustainability, economic mobility and social justice, have become more pronounced. This has been somewhat of a wakeup call and a growing recognition of what's important. It's affected the things I get involved in. For example, as the city grows, some people are no longer able to afford the rent and get displaced, sometimes resulting in their becoming homeless. What kind of city we are is reflected in how we answer questions like this."

JOHN R. "JOHNNY" BELK

2021 AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE RECIPIENT



John R. "Johnny" Belk is the retired President and Chief Operating Officer of Belk, Inc. A member of the third generation to lead Belk, he left in February of 2016 after more than 30 years at the company. Since retirement, Johnny has devoted a majority of his time to community building entities such as the Belk Foundation which he chairs and to the YMCA of Greater Charlotte of which he is the past chair. In addition to his educational focused responsibilities at the Belk Foundation, he serves on the executive committee of BEST NC and of Woodberry Forest School. Johnny is also a founding partner at Carolina Capital Real Estate Partners.

He is the recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine and the Distinguished Eagle Award. He and his wife, Kim, have three adult children. "A quality education can drastically change the course of a young person's life. North Carolina has a strong history of leadership in public education, from pre-K through higher ed, but today, far too few students receive excellent educational opportunities. Racial and economic disparities should not determine a student's future. Since retiring as the COO of Belk, Inc. in 2016, I am increasingly committed to creating robust solutions to educational inequities in Charlotte and across the state by chairing The Belk Foundation and serving as a Board member of BEST NC. By focusing on early grade achievement and access to excellent teachers, I see many opportunities to create positive, sustainable change for students."

WELCOME

JOAN F. LORDEN, CHAIR, THE ECHO FOUNDATION

THE ECHO FOUNDATION

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WHY I SUPPORT THE ECHO FOUNDATION

JERRE STEAD, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN & CEO, CLARIVATE
JOHN READY, ECHO FOOTSTEPS AMBASSADOR

SOCIAL JUSTICE & THE MEDIA

INTRODUCTION: **NEERAJ KHANNA**, ECHO BOARD TRUSTEE
NICHOLAS KRISTOF, TWO-TIME PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST, AUTHOR, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE
STUDENTS ENGAGE: A VIEW INTO THE STUDENT DIALOGUE

AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION: **GENE MATTHEWS**, PRESIDENT, THE DAVID BELK CANNON FOUNDATION
PRESENTATION: **RICHARD "STICK" WILLIAMS**, RETIRED PRESIDENT, DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

KATHERINE BELK MORRIS | THOMAS M. BELK | JOHN R. BELK
2021 ECHO AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE RECIPIENTS

ECHO AGENTS OF CHANGE

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WHY ECHO?

REILLY MCDOWELL, ECHO STUDENT AMBASSADOR

MUSICAL CLOSING

"I'LL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE"
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AWARD AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

“The Echo Foundation honors a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community who personifies the organization’s dedication to promoting human dignity, justice and moral courage through positive, effective action for humankind. This extraordinary individual lives his/her commitment to better the human condition by working always with an eye toward peace, a heart filled with compassion and a voice against indifference. He/she works without concern for personal gain or comfort, often in situations involving risk, in order to remind our community of its highest ideals. From this person, we may learn a better way to create a community that honors and includes us all.”

For more information about The Echo Foundation,
please visit www.echofoundation.org

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