

The Educate! Experience named a 2015 WISE Awards Finalist project

The Educate! Experience is one of fifteen projects chosen by WISE for providing compelling and innovative solutions to today's most pressing challenges in education

May 4, 2015 –Educate!, based in the United States and Uganda, is delighted to announce that its project, The Educate! Experience, has been named a 2015 WISE Awards Finalist. Inaugurated by Qatar Foundation in 2009, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the WISE Awards identify and promote the most innovative and effective approaches to key current global education challenges.

Offering real-world solutions, the WISE Awards Finalist projects represent concrete examples of best educational practices benefitting individuals and communities at large. Addressing a large spectrum of issues in all environments the projects can provide a source of inspiration for others all over the world.

“This year the WISE Awards Finalists again demonstrate how sustainable, creative solutions help overcome barriers to education and transform lives everywhere. These grass roots efforts are having a positive impact on their communities. Our role at WISE is to help disseminate excellence in education on a global scale”, said Stavros N. Yiannouka, Chief Executive Officer of WISE.

Educate! aims to transform secondary education in Africa to teach youth to solve poverty and develop the leaders and entrepreneurs necessary to drive long-term sustainable development. Educate! teaches secondary school youth the skills to start their own businesses, improve their livelihoods, and develop their communities, with the goal of making this model part of the education system. In 2014 the organization scaled by a factor of four, reaching over 200 schools and 70,000 students in Uganda. A randomized controlled trial has shown massive impact on Educate! Graduates: a 105% income increase, a 64% increase in business creation, and a 123% increase in leadership initiative compared to a control group. For girls, the difference was even greater – female Educate! Graduates were **152% more likely** to own a business than girls in the control group. Results from a separate internal evaluation of Educate!’s 1st two graduating classes found that 94% of graduates now run a business, have a job or attend university. Educate!’s Ten Year Vision is to work with one million students annually across 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including 350,000 students in Uganda.

The WISE Awards Finalist projects, evaluated by a Pre-Jury of internationally recognized education experts, demonstrated innovative thinking and a concrete impact on communities and societies, as well as a potential to be replicated in other contexts and regions.

“Our team is enormously excited and grateful to have been selected as a WISE Awards Finalist. This recognition will allow us to impact even more African youth and equip them with the tools to become leaders and changemakers in their communities. Educate! is poised to accomplish big goals in 2015, when we will reach 87,500 youth and choose our next country for international expansion. We are thrilled to be named a WISE Awards Finalist during this pivotal time in our growth,” said Boris Bulayev, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Educate!.

The six winning projects will be announced in September and celebrated at the seventh World Innovation Summit for Education, November 3-5, 2015, in Doha, Qatar. In addition to publicity and networking opportunities, each will receive \$20,000 (US).

For further information about the WISE Awards visit <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards> and the 2015 WISE Awards Finalists visit: <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards-2015>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The 2015 WISE Awards Finalists:

- Al-Bairaq (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/al-bairaq-qatar>): Qatar
- Bridge International Academies
(<http://www.wise-qatar.org/bridge-international-academies-kenya>): Kenya
- Children's Video Library in Sign Language
(<http://www.wise-qatar.org/videobooks-for-deaf-children-argentina>): Argentina
- Discovering Diversity (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/discovering-diversity-australia>): Australia
- The Educate! Experience (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/educate-experience-usa>): USA/Uganda
- The Edible Schoolyard (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/edible-schoolyard-usa>): USA
- GirlEng - Girls in Engineering Program (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/girleng-south-africa>): South Africa
- INEE - The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
(<http://www.wise-qatar.org/inee-the-inter-agency-network-for-education-in-emergencies-usa>): USA
- The Lab on a Bike (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/lab-on-a-bike-india>): India
- Lights to Learn (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/lights-to-learn-spain>): Spain/Latin America
- Nafham (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/nafham-egypt>): Egypt
- NetEase Open Course (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/netease-open-course-china>): China
- Teacher Changemakers Movement
(<http://www.wise-qatar.org/teachers-changemakers-movement-uk>): UK
- The Talking Book Program (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/talking-book-program-usa>): USA
- Universe Awareness, UNAWE
(<http://www.wise-qatar.org/universe-awareness-unawe-the-netherlands>): Netherlands

About the WISE Awards:

Each year the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global education challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 2,000 applications from over 140 countries. Thirty-six projects have been recognized around the world from a variety of sectors for their innovative character, their positive contribution and for scalability and adaptability. The six winning projects will be announced in September and celebrated at the seventh World Innovation Summit for Education, November 3-5, 2015, in Doha, Qatar

About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser established the World Innovation Summit for Education in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action. WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education. Through both the annual Summit and a range of ongoing programs WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration. WISE 2015 will take place 3-5 November in Doha.