



World Dignity University

Bringing dignity to learning, globally and locally

Press Release
Oslo, July 2011

World Dignity University Initiative Launched – *"An Invitation to Educators from Around the World to Help Advance the Dignity of All People"*

On the 24th of June, a world community of scholars, practitioners, and advocates celebrated the launch of an initiative designed to advance "equality in dignity" through education and collaborative action.

Around the world the struggle for equal dignity is growing. Leaders and scholars alike declare that we are in the midst of a "Dignity Revolution"! Yet, education for "equality in dignity" has not kept pace with changing times. In response, a world-class community of scholars, practitioners, and advocates celebrated the launch of a new initiative: The World Dignity University Initiative. Spearheaded by the *Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies* (HumanDHS) network and launched at the *University of Oslo* in Norway on the 24th of June, this initiative is designed to advance dignity through education and global collaboration.

Evelin Lindner, Founding President of HumanDHS, observed, "We are living in times when nothing short of global cooperation can successfully address the urgent problems developing in the world today." Director Linda Hartling, emphasized, "We will need everyone's participation to solve these problems. Dignifying education is the key to participation." Pro-Rector of the University of Oslo, Inga Bostad, invited all to join together in realizing this vision by recognizing that "...education concerning human rights and dignity is a never-ending process of making knowledge meaningful."

In his video contribution, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director-General of UNESCO, supported this global action as a way to build peace for future generations, stating "It is very important that education permanently reflects, at the highest level, at the university level...the equal dignity of all human beings."

The World Dignity University will focus on the innovative use of technology to connect scholars and learners from around the globe. It will encourage ongoing human-to-human interactions, taking a strength-based approach and implementing 360 degree learning and teaching enriched by the wisdom of diverse cultures. In support, Founding Scholar Francisco Gomes de Matos, the esteemed Brazilian Peace Linguist, expressed the significance of this global initiative, stating "Dignity is more than a quality. It is the essence of our humanity."

The World Dignity University will be a beacon of dignity for all working for dignity in the world today.

Evelin Lindner, Founding President, and Linda M. Hartling, Director, Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies

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Notes to editors:

* *Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies* is a global transdisciplinary network and fellowship of concerned academics and practitioners. We wish to stimulate systemic change, globally and locally, to open space for dignity and mutual respect and esteem to take root and grow, thus ending humiliating practices and breaking cycles of humiliation throughout the world. We propose that a frame of cooperation and shared humility is necessary - not a mindset of humiliation - if we wish to build a better world, a world of equal dignity for all.

* This is the *World Dignity University Initiative Leadership Team*, a project of *Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies*:

[Evelin Lindner, MD, PhDs](#), Founding President

[Linda Hartling, PhD](#), Director

[Uli Spalthoff, PhD](#), Director of Project Development and Systems Administration

[Michael Britton, EdD, PhD](#), Board Member

[Richard Slaven, PhD](#), Business Director

* Click [here](#) to view the video by Evelin Lindner inviting participation in the World Dignity University Initiative.

* Click to view the video of Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of the Environment and Minister of Development Cooperation, offering his greetings in honor of this initiative, please go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfzrteRAyzM&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

* Click to view the video of Federico Mayor Zaragoza's, former Director-General of UNESCO, sending his greetings for the launch of the World Dignity University Initiative:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpI4aVtOzzM&feature=related

* Click [here](#) to view a summary of the *World Dignity University Initiative*.

* Click [here](#) for more details about the *World Dignity University Initiative*.

* Click [here](#) to view the *Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies* website

* For follow up comments and other media inquiries, please email:

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