

# THE HEINZ AWARDS

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## **MIT Researcher/Women's Advocate Honored with Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment**

**Dr. Mildred Dresselhaus recognized for contributions in research,  
teaching and championing women's role in science**

**BOSTON, May 2, 2005** – A Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and researcher whose scholarship has helped keep the United States on the cutting edge of nanostructures and other technologies has been honored with the 11th annual Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment.

Dr. Mildred Dresselhaus of Cambridge, Mass., a well-known scientist and advocate for increased opportunities for women in the sciences for more than four decades, is among five distinguished Americans selected to receive the \$250,000 awards, presented in five categories by the Heinz Family Foundation.

“Throughout her career, Dr. Mildred Dresselhaus has distinguished herself by leading scientific investigations into superconductivity, the electronic properties of carbon and now, the new physics at the nanometer scale. She has consistently combined significant scientific accomplishments and prominent leadership roles with an abiding commitment to support the advancement of women in the sciences,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “She has been a generous mentor and role model to countless women over the years and has had a profound impact on the scientific

opportunities that are available to women today. We are pleased to recognize her life's work with the Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment."

A native of the Bronx, where she showed an early aptitude for the violin, her interest in high school shifted from music to science. Following her doctoral work at the University of Chicago, she focused her initial research on solid state physics and superconductivity. In 1960 she and her husband, physicist Gene Dresselhaus, moved to the Lincoln Laboratory at MIT, where they remained for seven years, after which she joined the MIT faculty. She is currently an Institute Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, and she has trained more than 60 graduate students.

Dr. Dresselhaus is one of the foremost experts in the multi-faceted field of carbon science worldwide. Her investigations into the electronic properties of graphite, the structure and properties of novel forms of carbon, thermo-electricity and the new physics at the nanometer scale have significantly advanced these fields. She has lectured around the world, written extensively about her research and served in prominent leadership roles, including director of the office of science at the U.S. Department of Energy in the Clinton Administration, president of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among other high-profile posts. Among her numerous honors is the National Medal of Science, which she received from President George H.W. Bush in 1990, as well as 20 honorary degrees from various colleges and universities.

The mother of four, Dr. Dresselhaus faced unique challenges in the workplace, which perhaps provided the inspiration to assist other women to pursue scientific careers. In 1970 she co-founded the Women's Forum at MIT – established to equalize opportunities for all women at MIT – and received a Carnegie Foundation grant to encourage women's study of traditionally male-dominated fields, such as physics. In 1973 she also became the Abby Rockefeller Mauze chair, endowed in support of the scholarship of women in science and engineering. When Dr. Dresselhaus arrived at MIT in 1960, women

comprised just 4 percent of the undergraduate student population; the percentage of women today is over 40 percent.

“As scientists, we understand how to devise new ways of thinking, how to extract new truths from our environment, how to apply what we have learned to the world around us,” said Dr. Dresselhaus. “This, too, is the basis for enhancing opportunities for women to study and explore careers in the sciences. Among my greatest satisfactions – in addition to a marriage of 47 years and the raising of four wonderful children – has been empowering the young women who have been inspired to pursue a scientific calling. I hope that this award will provide additional inspiration, and I thank the Heinz Family Foundation for this tremendous honor.”

Since 1993, the Heinz Family Foundation of Pittsburgh has recognized individuals whose dedication, skill and generosity of spirit represent the best of the human condition – qualities that the late Senator Heinz, for whom the award is named, held so dear.

Presented in five categories, the other Heinz Award recipients are:

- **Arts and Humanities: Mark di Suvero**, sculptor, artistic visionary and founder of Socrates Sculpture Park from New York City
- **Environment: Jerry Franklin, Ph.D.**, forest ecologist, educator and the “father of new forestry” from Seattle
- **Human Condition: Joseph Rogers**, mental health administrator and advocate and founder of Project SHARE from Philadelphia
- **Public Policy: Sidney Drell, Ph.D.**, theoretical physicist, educator and arms control advisor from Stanford, Calif.

From time to time, the Heinz Awards program will bestow upon a truly exceptional nominee its **Chairman’s Medal**, created to honor lifetime achievement by someone whose career has been distinguished by a pattern of singular accomplishment and character. **Richard Goldman**, philanthropist and chairman of Goldman Insurance

Services from San Francisco, has been selected to receive a Chairman's Medal as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Heinz Awards.

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### **About the Heinz Foundation**

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late Senator John Heinz in 1984. His widow, Teresa Heinz, created the Heinz Awards in 1993, which are the primary activity of the Foundation. In addition to the Heinz Awards, the Foundation directs a grant-making program that is active in a wide range of issues, principally those concerning the environment and conservation, women, human services, education and the arts.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by an invited Council of Nominators, all experts in their fields, who serve anonymously. Award recipients are selected by the Board of Directors for the Heinz Awards upon recommendation by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors in each category.

Past recipients of the Heinz Awards include playwright August Wilson, environmental advocate Peggy Shepard, urban arts activist Rick Lowe and medical anthropologist Paul Farmer. Previous Chairman's Medal honorees include U.S. Senators Richard G. Lugar and Sam Nunn, and Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women.

In addition to the \$250,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other. Designed by John Heinz IV, the late senator's oldest son, the medallion symbolizes the partnership, continuity and values carried on to the next generation. The hands also suggest passing on the stewardship of the earth to future generations.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a private ceremony in Washington, D.C. on May 24.

Additional information is available online at [www.heinzawards.net](http://www.heinzawards.net).

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