



The International Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award

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not a status to be achieved.*



THE INSTITUTE FOR
HABITS OF MIND

What is a Habits of Mind Learning Community?

A Habits of Mind Learning Community is a place where all the individuals value, display and seek to deepen the Habits of Mind. Such a learning community is committed to the Habits of Mind being a part of the ongoing culture of the school.

Evidence of the Habits of Mind may be found throughout the school in the environment, curriculum and assessment, policy and practices as well as the through the actions of all members of the school community.

Importantly in a Habits of Mind Learning Community the school is committed to the ongoing growth and development of the Habits of Mind throughout the life of the school.

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Who Should Apply?

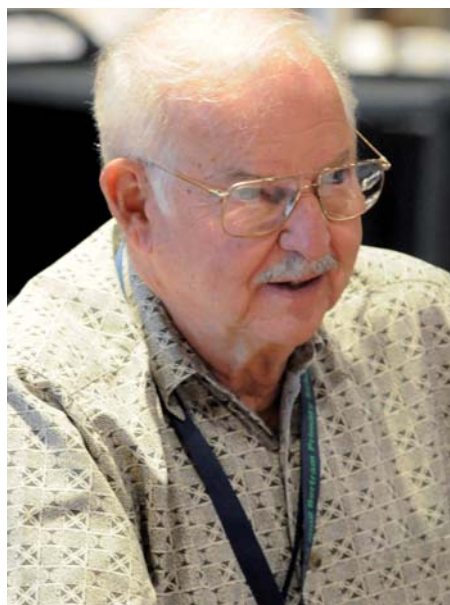
The award of a Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence is intended for schools who have already begun and sustained their learning journey with Habits of Mind. The award is a reflection of the commitment made by a school to expand, deepen and learn more about the power of the Habits of Mind.

Schools wishing to be recognized and supported by the Institute for Habits of Mind for their current work, and their ongoing commitment to the Habits of Mind are invited to apply for this award.

What's involved?

The Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award is a commitment by the school to a three-year process of development and growth.

Successful schools will demonstrate achievement in infusing the Habits of Mind into the life of their school and community AND develop a three-year plan for extending and developing the Habits of Mind within their school.



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What does it cost?

An application fee of \$500 is payable to the Institute for Habits of Mind in order to be considered for the award. At this time the school must provide a portfolio of evidence reflecting their history and current achievement with the Habits of Mind. A site visit by an Associate Director of the Institute for Habits of Mind may be required.

Upon successful demonstration of significant achievement and commitment to the Habits of Mind, a further \$1000 is payable to the Institute for Habits of Mind. The award of a Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence is granted and the school enters a process of development in close consultation with the Associate Director over the course of 3 years. This process is described below.

Costs associated with this 3-year process will vary depending on schools learning needs. It is expected that a site visit by an associate director (or agent) at least once a year for the three years of the award. This may be combined with consultancy, professional development or other support.

What are the benefits to the School?

The Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award is a mark of good practice. There are numerous benefits to the school that receives this award including:

- Ongoing support and mentoring from the Institute for Habits of Mind
- Improved learning and teaching practice that are the natural result of working successfully with the Habits of Mind
- Authorization to display the IHOM logo on letterhead, publication, newsletters and other products designating the school as a Habits of Mind Learning Community.
- Recognition by the institute for Habits of Mind and listing on the IHOM web site
- Connection to other schools engaged in the process of the Institute for Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award
- Invitation to learning opportunities to support the schools growth.

What are the expectations placed on Schools

The Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence award is a commitment to a process, and with this comes certain expectations. These include:

- Development of, and commitment to, a plan to further extend, support and develop the Habits of Mind throughout the school
- Participation in opportunities, both electronic and physical, to share work and collaborate with other schools engaged in the award.
- Engage in ongoing action research, to study, reflect and improve on school and teacher practices.

The Process:

The Plan

Within 6 months of the award being granted the school will produce a 3-year plan that outlines goals, success criteria and strategies for the further development of the Habits of Mind within the school community. This plan will include generating the schools long-term vision for Habits of Mind. Action research will also be an essential component of this plan.

The plan will be developed in consultation with an Associate Director. Attendance at the Mindfulness by Design Conference is a suggested and powerful way to develop this plan. Direct consultation with the school is also a possibility.

All schools who have been granted the Learning Community of Excellence Award will submit their vision and plans to be shared with other award recipients. In this way the Institute for Habits of Mind can share experiences and connect schools with like goals.

Support and Mentoring

Over the three-year course of the award schools implement their plan under the guidance and mentoring of an Associate Director of the Institute for Habits of Mind. In Australia the following professional learning opportunities are offered through Mindful by Design that may support schools:

- Consultancy
- Professional Learning

Introducing HOM to Teachers and Classrooms
Infusing HOM into Curriculum and Pedagogy
Mindfulness by Design conference
Habits of Mind Expo
Study Tours (Australia and NZ)
Habits of Mind Symposiums

Each year the school will demonstrate progress towards their goals in consultation with an Associate Director.

Demonstration of Achievement

At the end of the three-year period the school will demonstrate achievement of progress towards their goals through a presentation format that may be shared with other schools learning about the Habits of Mind. This might include:

- Construction of a digital portfolio
- Being a focus school on a Habits of Mind Study Tour
- Presentation at Habits of Mind Expo
- Presentation at Habits of Mind Symposium

A site visit by an associate director will also be required.

Further information

For more information about the Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award, including the expected standard to be met when applying, please contact:

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