

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Edward J. Dodson

The Henry George School is about two things, really. The first is truth. The second is empowerment. We have dedicated ourselves and committed our resources to education because we believe that knowledge is, indeed, the source of great power. We are all the beneficiaries of Henry George's lifetime of investigation and study, reflection and expression more than a century ago. The continuous operation of our school since 1932 is evidence of the timeless relevance of the scientific information he accumulated and the socio-political philosophy he espoused. Many talented and dedicated people have made the school and its work an important part of their lives.

During George's life one of the questions he continuously faced was how to best introduce what he had learned to others. As a journalist and editor, he understood the power of the printed word. His early career was one of constant struggle against the monopolistic power of politically-connected competitors. As he fought for what he believed were his rights, rights shared by all individuals, he evolved into one of humankind's greatest communicators and teachers. We are fortunate that he chose to develop a systematic presentation of his ideas in book form. Later, when Oscar Geiger, founder of the Henry George School, devised a three-part program on *The Science of Political Economy*, his books served as texts. Literally tens of thousands of people have completed that program since the school's humble beginnings. Updated to include discussion of the issues of today and the various schools of thought in economic science, this program continues to attract large numbers of students.

Our mission is, and has always been, empowerment through education. Education is how people can gain a more complete understanding of human behavior, and how specific socio-political institutions advance or thwart our right to liberty and equal opportunity.

We continue to do our work. Each of you will, we hope and trust, respond in a way that is uniquely meaningful. Each of us has influence. Each of us is extended by friends, family and colleagues. The number of individuals reached by the school is very heartening to me. You, however, have the power to enrich the lives of countless others, by conveying to them the knowledge you have gained through us.

In our own efforts we are also reaching out beyond the classroom. The school's high school program, under the direction of Stan Rubenstein, is bringing to thousands of students a new appreciation for the importance of land and natural resource ownership, both in our history and in the present day. One of our trustees, Si Winters, has developed a new program, the Social Science Forum, that seeks to bring important scholarly research to the attention of educators, public officials, journalists, economists and others. Our extensions and affiliates across the country are involved in equally creative programs.

The year past was one of considerable successes, and I congratulate everyone who has given of themselves as members of the teaching and administrative staff and as volunteers. I also thank each of my fellow trustees for their contributions of time, energy and ideas.

If the Henry George School has added something important to your life, I would very much enjoy hearing from you about how you have been touched. Equally important, let me know about your successes in reaching out to others.

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