

Henry Salvatori

As an immigrant to the United States, Henry Salvatori viewed America as the land of opportunity, and his life of hard work and principled convictions embodied the American spirit.

As founder of the Western Geophysical Company, he developed important new oil exploration technology. Throughout his life, he invested the rewards of his enterprise in projects that teach young people about America's founding principles and institutions. Mr. Salvatori deeply desired to help young Americans gain an understanding of individual rights, limited government, and the moral foundations of American constitutionalism. His extraordinary generosity toward Hillsdale College established the Henry Salvatori Chair in History and the Henry Salvatori Prize for Excellence in Teaching.



1901-1997

"The aim of liberal education is human excellence, both private and public . . . Its object is the excellence of man as man and man as citizen. It regards man as an end, not as a means; and it regards the ends of life, and not the means to it. For this reason it is the education of free men."

—ROBERT MAYNARD HUTCHINS
THE GREAT CONVERSATION

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College was established in 1844 by men and women "grateful to God for the inestimable blessings resulting from the prevalence of civil and religious liberty and intelligent piety in the land."

They created an institution that would "furnish to all persons who wish, irrespective of nationality, color, or sex, a literary, scientific and theological education."

Hillsdale College, located in southern Michigan, was the first college in America to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race or sex, and the second in the nation to grant four-year liberal arts degrees to women. Today it serves over 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students with a focus on two core principles: academic excellence and institutional independence.



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSuing TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

33 EAST COLLEGE STREET
HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN 49242

HILLSDALE.EDU

k12.hillsdale.edu/Schools/Salvatori-Prize/

The Henry Salvatori Prize

For Excellence in Teaching



Henry Salvatori Prize

In response to the widespread decline in American K-12 education, the late Henry Salvatori established a permanent endowment at Hillsdale College to recognize exceptional classroom teaching nationwide. A longtime friend of the College, Mr. Salvatori admired Hillsdale's classical liberal arts curriculum and its principled refusal of federal taxpayer subsidies.

Due to a growing number of high quality applications received, the Salvatori Prize is now expanding to recognize a Salvatori Winner and other runners-up.

A \$40,000 award is made payable to the winning school's tax-exempt 501(c)(3) institution, along with accompanying certificate, signage, and digital marks. The award money may be used for books, equipment, and other educational materials. It may not be applied to salaries, stipends, or endowments.

Runners-up will also receive an award certificate and a monetary prize for use in the purchase of curricular materials.



Award Criteria

All public and private schools with teaching that draws upon the best traditions of Western education and have an associated 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization are eligible to apply.

Applicants are evaluated in the areas listed below, as outlined in Hillsdale College's Best Practices for K-12 Schools.

- I. Governance.** Boards exist to serve, execute, and protect the mission of a school, governing according to processes that empower and hold accountable the head of school.
- II. Leadership.** The head of school manages the daily life of the school, fostering the school's classical mission, leading a strong team of faculty, managing the business functions of the organization, and communicating well with the school community.
- III. Curriculum.** Curriculum provides students with a well-rounded education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in moral character and civic virtue. It is vertically and horizontally aligned, so that students progress toward a deep and broad understanding year by year.
- IV. Pedagogy.** Teachers are deeply learned in their subjects and communicate with clarity and care. They are firm and kind leaders in the classroom.
- V. Culture.** The school's culture encourages all within it to pursue moral and intellectual virtue, the understanding of which is grounded in the classical tradition.

Recent Winners



- 2020**Golden View Classical Academy
Golden, CO
- 2021**..... Sacred Heart Academy
Grand Rapids, MI
- 2022** Seven Oaks Classical School
Ellettsville, IN
- 2022** Treasure Valley Classical Academy
Fruitland, ID
- 2023**Atlanta Classical Academy
Atlanta, GA
- 2025** Seven Oaks Classical School
Ellettsville, IN

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 15, 2026.
THE WINNING SCHOOL WILL BE NOTIFIED BY APRIL 15, 2026.

**VISIT K12.HILLSDALE.EDU/SCHOOLS/SALVATORI-PRIZE
TO APPLY ONLINE**