

The Second Annual
George Washington Carver Dinner

Thursday, September 21, 2017 Reception at 5:30 Dinner at 6:30
The Iowa Culinary Institute at Des Moines Area Community College
2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., Building 7, Ankeny, Iowa
www.carverbirthplaceassoc.org
<https://2017carverdinner.eventbrite.com>



July 20, 2017

Paxton Williams
4215 Grand Ave. #204
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

The Hon. Kenneth M. Quinn
President, The World Food Prize
The Hall of Laureates
100 Locust Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Ambassador Quinn,

I trust this note finds your July going well. I write to let you know that Dr. Eulanda Sanders, member of the board of directors of the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association and chair of the selection committee for the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service and Innovation Award, informed me that you have been selected to receive the 2017 George Washington Carver Distinguished Service and Innovation Award.

Presented by the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association, the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service and Innovation Award recognizes outstanding individuals and their work in areas readily associated with Carver, including, but not limited to the areas of agriculture, art, nature, science, spiritual matters, and textiles, etc. Nominees' work and lives should demonstrate the traits and characteristics of George Washington Carver that made him a successful educator, scientist, leader, and humanitarian.

You were nominated for the award by Mr. Suku Radia. As a longtime admirer of you and the work of the World Food Prize Foundation, I was especially pleased to learn of the selection.

You were selected alongside Simon Estes to receive this year's award, joining previous recipients the Hon. Thomas J. Vilsack, 30th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and 40th Governor of Iowa, and Dr. Luther S. Williams, noted scientist, educator, and administrator.

We are so pleased to know that you and Mrs. Quinn will be able to join us at the 2017 Carver Dinner on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Iowa Culinary Institute on the campus of the Des Moines Area Community College. The evening begins with an hour-long reception at 5:30pm. As an honoree, a table of 8 will be provided gratis for your party.

I have attached a copy of the press release related to the 2017 Carver Dinner so that you might see the excitement generated by it. The Carver Dinner, now in its second year, is being planned by the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association (CBA) and is CBA's major annual fundraising event. We are envisioning having the dinner in various Carver-related locations, and last year, the inaugural Carver Dinner was held on September 20, 2016 at Washington University in St. Louis.

As proceeds from the dinner will go towards the renovation of the original 1872 Colored Schoolhouse George attended in Neosho, Missouri, and the development of an accompanying distance-education enabled interpretative center, from which schools in Iowa and across the nation might benefit, we believe this dinner will be a singular event—Governor Reynolds has tentatively agreed to provide opening remarks—that will have lasting impact.

Programs emanating from the interpretative center would relate to agricultural and science matters as well as the values that defined George Washington Carver, speaking to the importance of resilience, mentorship, education, and acceptance and inclusion, all important values that are in dire need of being stressed today. Simply, this dinner will work to continue to the Iowa legacy of George Washington Carver while paying tribute to the role Iowa played in his development.

Thank you again for all you and all at the World Food Prize Foundation do to create a better world in the grand tradition of Dr. Norman Borlaug and Dr. Carver.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments for me. You or anyone you might designate can reach me at the address above or at 219-308-1752.

Again, Congratulations. I can think of no one more deserving of this award. You truly embody George Washington Carver's belief that "it is simply service that measures success."

Regards,



Paxton Williams

Co-Chair, 2017 George Washington Carver Dinner Planning Committee