

# The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The University of Georgia

Awarded in 2007 to

**President  
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**



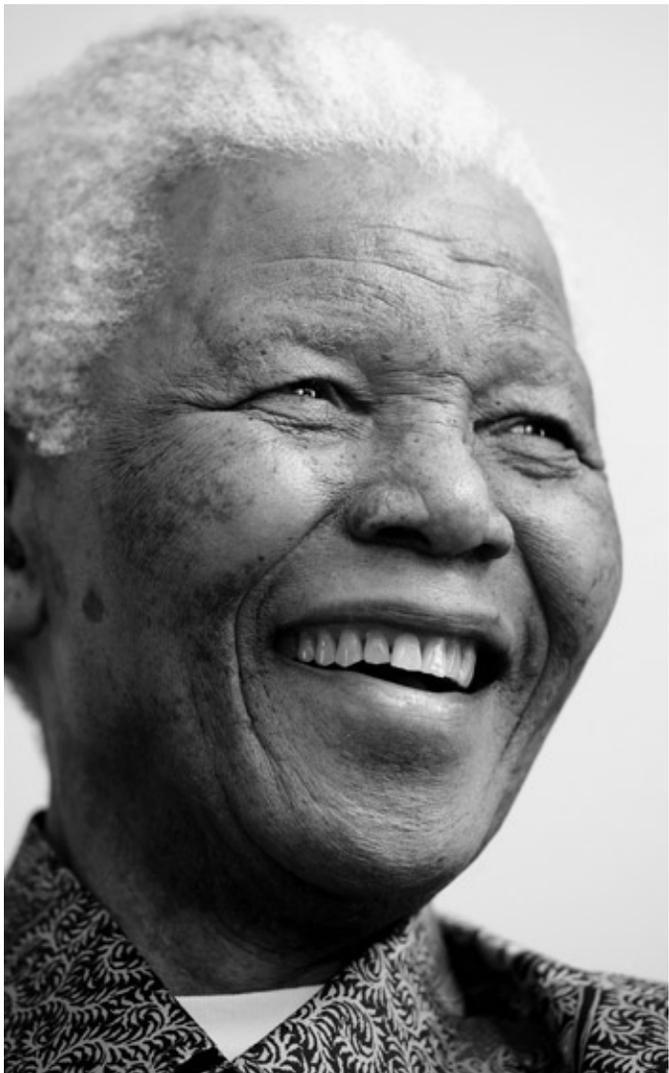


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**Title page:** President Nelson Mandela (Photo/Dave Hogan/Getty Images Entertainment)

**Front cover:** President Nelson Mandela (Photo/Dave Hogan/Getty Images Entertainment)

Inset: The Delta Prize Sculpture. The Delta Prize sculpture was designed by Barbara Mann and Gary Noffke. The sculpture consists of a sterling silver medallion, approximately 2 1/4 inches in diameter and 1/8 inch thick, held in place by a titanium pin on a bronze triangular base. The medallion portrays the earth with the abstracted continents in low relief. In raised lettering surrounding the earth are, on one side, the words "THE DELTA PRIZE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING," and, on the other side, the words "THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA." The medallion rotates in place on the stand. The name of the recipient of the Delta Prize is inscribed on the bronze base. (Photo/Paul Efland)



## The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding, endowed by the Delta Air Lines Foundation and administered by The University of Georgia, is awarded on an annual basis to individuals who by their own initiative have provided opportunities for greater understanding among cultures and nations. The Delta Prize honors a variety of contributions to peace and cooperation, such as grassroots projects that diminish hostilities in a particular region of the world, international programs that facilitate communication or commerce among different peoples, and the leadership of individuals in the solution of global problems.

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## Foreword

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding was born of a collaboration between Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia. Now these two great institutions take pride in awarding the 2007 Delta Prize to former President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The Delta Prize is unique among international awards for its involvement of students in the selection process. The University of Georgia accepts nominations from people all over the world. Students in our Honors Program and our Foundation Fellows Program, which is the University's most prestigious academic scholarship, research the nominees and create a short list for the Delta Prize Board, which makes the final selection. The students then join Board members, Delta officials, and University of Georgia faculty and administrators in the presentation ceremony.

These students learn much from their participation in the Delta Prize program. They learn what constitutes great leadership in the solution of international and intercultural problems. They learn who the world's leaders are. They learn how those leaders developed, how those leaders formed their vision of the future, how those leaders succeeded in their goals, and how those leaders helped make a more peaceful global community. And their research motivates them to become leaders themselves.

We find in President Mandela a great model for the new generation of leaders. President Mandela, like previous Delta Prize recipients President Jimmy Carter and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, enabled societies once in conflict to understand each other better and thereby to live together peacefully. President Mandela appreciated the power of mutual understanding to diminish violent hostilities.

The University of Georgia hopes that President Mandela's leadership model will inspire our students to follow in his footsteps to do what they can to make a more peaceful world in the future. This is why the University of Georgia has formed the partnership with Delta Air Lines: to recognize leadership that increases mutual understanding among our planet's diverse peoples.

Let us all remember President Mandela's words:

Let there be justice for all. Let there be peace for all. Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all. Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves.

**Michael F. Adams**

President of The University of Georgia  
Member of the Delta Prize Board

# Preface

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding was established to recognize individuals whose extraordinary ability to promote fruitful communication has rendered their region of the world a more peaceful place. The University of Georgia and Delta Air Lines are pleased to present the Delta Prize to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, first president of South Africa.

We honor Nelson Mandela for his leadership in ending apartheid, facilitating a peaceful transition to democracy, and making possible interracial understanding in South Africa. Not only has his work helped bring peace to South Africa, but it has also served as a model for bringing peace to other parts of the world.

Nelson Mandela was born in 1918 in a village near Mthatha in the Eastern Cape of the country known then as the Union of South Africa. While studying in Johannesburg, in the early 1940s, he became a leader of the African National Congress Youth League and later the ANC. For his protests against apartheid and his political actions, he was incarcerated, ultimately, for a period of twenty-seven years.

In one of his court trials, Nelson Mandela made a now-famous statement that inspired all who opposed apartheid:

I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

In 1990, Mandela was released from prison at the age of 71. In 1994, he was elected president of the Republic of South Africa, in the nation's first all-race elections.

The major challenge of the twenty-first century will be world-wide integration—that is, the development of harmonious relationships among peoples of different colors, ethnicities, and religions. Now and in the future, we will need more leaders like Nelson Mandela to make peace between societies that have long feared, distrusted, and hated each other. We will need more statesmen like Nelson Mandela to bring about global understanding.

In his acceptance speech for the Noble Peace Prize in 1993, Nelson Mandela spoke of his hope that South Africa would be a “microcosm of the new world that is striving to be born.”

This must be a world of democracy and respect for human rights, a world freed from the horrors of poverty, hunger, deprivation and ignorance, relieved of the threat and the scourge of civil wars and external aggression, and unburdened of the great tragedy of millions forced to become refugees.

Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia share this hope for a more peaceful global community. It is for his vision and his selfless actions on behalf of intercultural understanding that we give the 2007 Delta Prize to Nelson Mandela.

**Gary K. Bertsch**

Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program

**Betty Jean Craige**

Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program



## On Behalf of Delta

When Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia established the Delta Prize for Global Understanding ten years ago, no one could have imagined the events that would shape our world over the next decade. The idea of a global economy where culture and commerce were fully interdependent was almost academic when compared to the reality of today's global landscape.

Delta was just beginning to fly non-stop from Atlanta to cities in Asia and Latin America. Delta did not yet fly to Africa. And Delta.com did not yet speak Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, or any of the other eight languages it will speak by 2008.

But Delta partnered with the University of Georgia not primarily for commercial but for cultural reasons. Delta recognizes the importance of intercultural understanding to the well-being of all the world's people, not only to eliminate motives for war but also to strengthen economies. Culture and commerce have become truly interdependent on a global scale. And interdependence behooves cooperation. So Delta does all it can to facilitate cooperation.

Through the Delta Prize, Delta Air Lines and the University of Georgia promote greater understanding among the different societies of our world by honoring courageous individuals who have worked successfully on behalf of peace, regardless of personal risk and with no expectation of personal reward, courageous individuals such as President Nelson Mandela.

We are delighted that President Mandela will accept the 2007 Delta Prize for Global Understanding. President Mandela showed extraordinary courage, character, and vision in creating a new nation and leading its diverse people toward cooperation. He brought hope and opportunity where there was none before, and he brought the expectation of a peaceful future to a people who had never enjoyed life without fear.

This year Delta inaugurated its first direct flights to South Africa. We have President Mandela to thank for making South Africa into a peaceful and prosperous member of the global community.

**James M. Whitehurst**

Chief Operating Officer of Delta Air Lines



## The Words of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Our march to freedom is irreversible. We must not allow fear to stand in our way. Universal suffrage on a common voters' role in a united democratic and non-racial South Africa is the only way to peace and racial harmony.

—1990, *Address on Release from Prison*

The crisis in education that exists in South Africa demands special attention. The education crisis in black schools is a political crisis. It arises out of the fact that our people have no vote and therefore cannot make the government of the day responsive to their needs. Apartheid education is inferior and a crime against humanity. Education is an area that needs the attention of all our people, students, parents, teachers, workers and all other organised sectors of our community. Let us build disciplined structures, student representative councils, a united national teachers organisation, parent structures and parent-teacher-student associations and the National Education Crisis Committee.

—1990, *Address to Soweto*

The time has come that we abandon this terrible past which made our country an object of hatred by the nations of the world. We can and must all join hands to make a better future for all the people of our country, to secure a common victory over a racist system which the overwhelming majority of the people of our country agree has to be ended without delay.

We must all strive to be inspired by a deep-seated love of our country, without regard to race, colour, gender or station in life. We must strive to be moved by a generosity of spirit that will enable us to outgrow the hatred and conflicts of the past. We must anchor all our efforts in the common determination to build a South African society that will be the envy of the world.

—1990, *Christmas Message*

The shared commitment to democracy of all the participants in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa is indicative of a considerable narrowing of the distance that formerly separated Black from White in our country. It requires courage and vision on the part of all our political leaders to grasp the challenge presented by this unique moment. Posterity will not forgive us if we let slip this



opportunity to move as painlessly as possible towards the goal of a country that is free and at peace with itself and its neighbours. Eighty years ago, when the founders of the African National Congress gathered in the city of Bloemfontein, our movement embraced certain universally accepted core principles that form the basis of modern human rights culture. We have waged struggle and nursed the tender shoots of this culture in our country against great odds.

Reduced to their essentials these principles are that:

governments must derive their authority from the consent of the governed;  
no person or group of persons should be subjected to oppression, domination or discrimination by virtue of his/her race, gender, colour or religious belief;  
all persons should enjoy security in their persons and their goods against intrusions by secular or clerical authorities;  
all persons shall enjoy the right to life, unfettered by impositions from either the secular or clerical authorities;  
all persons should have the untrammelled right to hold and express whatever opinions they wish to subscribe to as long as the exercise of that right does not infringe on the rights of others.

—1991, *Address to UNESCO, accepting Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize*

We envision a South Africa which will, in all respects, belong to all who live in it, black and white. Its political life will be governed by a thoroughgoing democratic constitution, based on the principle of "one person, one vote", without any distinction on grounds of race, colour, gender or creed and without any element whatsoever of racial domination and discrimination. This will bring to its demise the present constitution of South Africa, which this Organization categorized as null and void.

We also want to see entrenched all the necessary provisions ensuring the fullest possible protection and advancement of the fundamental human rights of every South African citizen. As part of this, and to ensure the rule of law, there will have to be created an independent and non-racial judiciary, as visualized in earlier documents adopted by the General Assembly.

At the same time, the new South Africa will have to address the burning question of mass poverty, which afflicts millions of our



people, especially the black population. Also to be dealt with as a matter of urgency are, of course, questions relating to the gross racial imbalances in the distribution of income, wealth, land and opportunity.

—1991, *Statement at United Nations General Assembly*

As we enter the New Year, we cannot forget those of our fellow citizens whose lot is the despair of homelessness, hunger and poverty. Millions of our people are still denied fundamental human rights - shelter, food and the right to a full and productive life. The future we seek to build will be seriously flawed if it cannot address this national problem.

—1991, *New Year's Eve Message*

Let the strivings of us all prove Martin Luther King, Jr., to have been correct, when he said that humanity can no longer be tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war.

—1993, *Nobel Lecture*

It was during those long and lonely years that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the freedom of all people, white and black. I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

—1994, *Long Walk to Freedom*

Now is the time for celebration, for South Africans to join together to celebrate the birth of democracy. I raise a glass to you all for working so hard to achieve what can only be called a small miracle. Let our celebrations be in keeping with the mood set in the elections, peaceful, respectful and disciplined, showing we are a people ready to assume the responsibilities of government.

—1994, *Election Speech*



Certainly, colonialism and the selfish ordering of world affairs - past and present – have undermined Africa's development. And it is only just that Africa should demand her fair share of world resources; that we should challenge the untenable global division of power and wealth.

But Africa has long traversed past a mind-set that seeks to heap all blame on the past and on others. The era of renaissance we are entering, is, and should be, based on our own efforts as Africans to change Africa's conditions for the better. If Africa's children, like all other children, should shelter a light of hope in their hearts about what life can offer, then we, as their parents and leaders, deserve to be judged by the same standards as anyone else.

In this regard, we face the urgent task of deepening the culture of human rights on the continent. We are called upon to ensure that our social structures reflect the will of the people. Our approach to issues of political power should proceed from the premise that it is an expression of popular will, and not a mysterious force wielded by a chosen few. . . .

Never again shall South Africa be the fountain-head of conflict in the region and further afield. Never again shall our country be the source of armaments used to suppress communities and to wage aggressive wars against neighbours. Never again shall we spend our people's resources to develop weapons of mass destruction.

—1995, *Acceptance of Africa Peace Award*

My wish is that South Africans never give up on the belief in goodness, that they cherish that faith in human beings as a cornerstone of our democracy. The first value mentioned under the founding principles of our Constitution is that of human dignity. We accord persons dignity by assuming that they are good, that they share the human qualities we ascribe to ourselves. Historical enemies succeeded in negotiating a peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy exactly because we were prepared to accept the inherent capacity for goodness in the other.

—2004, *Address to Parliament of South Africa*

**President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**

Recipient of the 2007 Delta Prize for Global Understanding

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Kelsey Hatcher

Charles May

Madison Moore

Jordan Myers

Tim Supakordej

Adam Thomas

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## **Recipients of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding**

**1999**

President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter and The Carter Center

**2000**

Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu

**2001**

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev

**2002**

Mrs. Sadako Ogata

**2004**

President Václav Havel

**2005**

Ambassador Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella

**2006**

Mr. Ted Turner

**2007**

President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

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for Global Understanding

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For information, please contact The University of Georgia, The Delta Prize for Global Understanding, 164 Psychology Building, Athens, Georgia 30602 (Prize@uga.edu). See also <http://www.uga.edu/news/deltaprize/>

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