

Hugh Downs Endowment

What is the Hugh Downs Endowment?

This scholarship is made possible by the Hugh Downs Endowment. One of the most familiar faces in U.S. television, Hugh Downs was the host of NBC's TODAY Show from 1962 to 1971 and the anchor for ABC's 20/20 from 1978 to 1999 where he concentrated on issues of medicine, science, family, adventure, aging, space and the arts. The scholarship will be given to a student who has a special interest in the social welfare of elderly people. One scholarship will be awarded.



Who is Dr. Hugh Downs?

Dr. Downs has enjoyed a distinguished career in radio and television as a reporter, newscaster, interviewer, narrator and host. In 1985 he was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as holding the record for the greatest number of hours on network commercial television. His record of over 10,000 hours still holds.

ARA Living Services presented Dr. Downs with their 1991 National Media Award for excellence in long-term health care reporting for his 20/20 segment on the problems families face when attempting to place loved ones in quality-care nursing homes.

Dr. Downs holds certificates in Social Gerontology (Hunter College) and Geriatric Medicine (Mt. Sinai Medical School) and lectures at Arizona State University and throughout the country on a wide range of subjects. He has honorary doctorate degrees from St. John's University, the University of Maryland, Daniel Webster College in Nashua, New Hampshire, North Adams State College, Massachusetts, Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., and Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Dr. Downs has chaired the Research and Education Committee of the Geriatrics Advisory Council of Mount Sinai Medical Center, is a member of the Board of Overseers of the Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College, chairs the Board of Governors of the National Space Society, and is chair emeritus of the United States Fund for UNICEF.

When Arizona State University upgraded their Department of Communications to a School, they named it The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication.

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