

- [November 17, 2020: Horace Mann CEO talks diversity in insurance industry](#)
 - [November 5, 2020: Horace Mann Helps 'Keep Kids Learning' at Home](#)
 - [October 26, 2020: NEA Foundation names Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence winners](#)
 - [October 1, 2020: Horace Mann to distribute \\$100,000 to address Springfield educational equity gaps exacerbated by pandemic](#)
 - [April 1, 2020: Horace Mann pilots wildfire certification program in California](#)
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Horace Mann CEO talks diversity in insurance industry

November 17, 2020

S&P Global Market Intelligence



Horace Mann CEO Marita Zuraitis was featured today in an S&P Global article on gender diversity in the insurance industry.

In the article "[Female insurance leaders work against odds to open doors for other women](#)," Zuraitis talks about her experience as one of only seven female CEOs in the U.S. insurance space.

"I want to be in a company where if I work hard, I'm going to have an equal opportunity to get ahead as the person sitting next to me," Zuraitis said. "As a female CEO of a company, I demand that environment."

Horace Mann Helps ‘Keep Kids Learning’ at Home

November 5, 2020



As thousands of teachers quickly switched to remote learning due to COVID-19, there was little time to prepare students for the change. Sixty-eight percent of educators told DonorsChoose their students lacked the resources they needed to learn from home.

To help educators in its communities provide remote learning resources, Horace Mann donated \$100,000 to the DonorsChoose Keep Kids Learning campaign. The donation helped more than 100 educators in central Illinois, the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the North Carolina Triangle provide learning supplies for students at home.

Springfield pre-K educator Janette Smith used the funds to create bags adorned with “I Miss You” stickers for her students with books, watercolors, Play-Doh, markers, flash cards and games.

“I was able to say, use your watercolors and paint me a picture, use your dry erase board and write your name,” she said. “And I will tell you, those kids got real creative with the stuff that I was able to give them.”

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

NEA Foundation names Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence winners

October 26, 2020



The NEA Foundation today announced the five winners of the 2021 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence. Each winner will receive a prize of \$10,000, \$500 to spend on a DonorsChoose project of their choice, and a crystal owl from Horace Mann to commemorate their achievement.

The winners, chosen for their diligence and dedication to students, colleagues, community,

and their profession, are:

- Amy Galloway, high school social studies educator at West Valley High School in Fairbanks, Alaska
- Casey Keyser, third grade educator at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School in Frederick, Maryland
- Leila Kubesch, English as a second language and Spanish educator at Norwood Middle School in Norwood, Ohio
- Sara Medalen, elementary reading and math interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary School in Minot, North Dakota
- Takeru Nagayoshi, high school English educator at New Bedford High School in New Bedford, Massachusetts

The five educators will be honored in February at the virtual NEA Salute to Excellence in Education Awards Gala, where one of them will be named the 2021 NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence winner, which comes with an additional \$25,000 prize.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

Horace Mann to distribute \$100,000 to address Springfield educational equity gaps exacerbated by pandemic

October 1, 2020



Horace Mann, in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, will provide more than \$100,000 to four Springfield organizations focused on closing student opportunity gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grants allow the organizations to assist nearly 500 additional low-to-moderate income families with targeted educational support, like providing safe remote learning spaces with reliable Internet access, additional learning opportunities for students falling behind, and basic needs like food and housing assistance for families.

One of the most pressing needs is safe, supervised remote learning sites for children with working parents, which several of the organizations will expand under the grants. Other programs include social and emotional learning programs and enrichment activities for at-risk students, assistance with basic needs for families, and support for parents taking a more active role in their child's learning.

Horace Mann's \$45,000 community donation was supported by an additional \$60,000 from FHLBank Chicago's Targeted Impact Fund. The [Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois](#) and the [Springfield Urban League](#) will each receive \$35,000, while [Compass for Kids](#) and [The Matthew Project](#) will each receive \$17,500.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

Horace Mann pilots wildfire certification program in California

April 1, 2020



The 2018 Camp Fire shocked California residents, first responders and insurance companies alike. Fueled by hot, dry gusts of wind, the fire burned 80 acres a minute at one point.

Once the fire was out, claims were settled and the rebuilding began, Horace Mann instituted a pilot “wildfire certification program” in the heavily wooded Paradise and Chico areas. An experienced Horace Mann loss control specialist visits insured homes — at no cost to the customer — to identify easily rectified risks, such as removing flammable pine needles, vegetation and firewood from the perimeter or roof of the home, using fire-resistant building materials on the roof and exterior walls, and installing vent screens to keep flying embers from entering the house.

“We can be proud that as a company, we’re doing everything in our power to prevent a house from burning down — and give people more time to get out safely,” said Matt Rubin, Horace Mann assistant vice president.