



The King Husein



Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards

2026

Matt Eyring

Recipient of the 2026 Global Business & Interfaith Peace Award

To be conferred at the Palace of Westminster and Mansion House, City of London, during *Dare to Overcome: The Economics of Kindness*

- Black Tie Gala Dinner – 13 October 2026

The Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards honour organisations and leaders who demonstrate that enterprise, faith, and principled leadership can work together to advance interfaith understanding, freedom of religion or belief, and peaceful, inclusive societies.

Launched in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact and the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Business for Peace initiative, the Awards recognise those who use business and institutional leadership as platforms for promoting tolerance, sustainability, and human dignity. The Awards are held under the Patronage of King Husein, 2021 recipient of the Global Business & Interfaith Peace Award and the Chairman and CEO of America's largest steel building company, whose leadership exemplifies the integration of commercial excellence and interfaith commitment.

This year, we honour Matt Eyring, whose social impact employment model shows religious freedom as a platform for social contributions that benefit all.

At a time when higher education faces crisis in cost, completion, and credibility, Mr Eyring has helped pioneer a model that many once deemed improbable: serving at scale those whom traditional institutions label high risk — adult learners, first-generation students, lower-income families, and those who previously stopped out of university throughout the world.

In part because of Mr Eyring's employment strategy, BYU-Pathway Worldwide has grown from 50 students in 2009 to nearly 90,000 in 2025, expanding rapidly across Africa, Latin America, the Pacific, and beyond. Yet growth alone does not explain its significance.

What distinguishes this model is that it succeeds where conventional systems struggle most. While six-year graduation rates at community colleges hover near 15 percent, BYU-Pathway's rates approach 50 percent, outperforming national averages while serving students many institutions overlook.



Mr Eyring's distinctive contribution has been to architect *social impact employment*, a disciplined bridge between education and dignified work. Rather than asking students to invest years before seeing economic return, BYU-Pathway uses a "certificate-first" model in which stackable credentials deliver early wins, job-ready skills, and upward mobility long before a bachelor's degree is completed. Three certificates stack into an accredited three-year bachelor's degree of 90–96 credits — one of the largest such programmes globally — delivered at a cost within reach of those earning a fraction of Western incomes.

Graduates and students are now hired by hundreds of companies worldwide, including Amazon, Microsoft, IBM, JPMorganChase, and PwC, alongside specialised firms such as Boosted Books, Elevation, Graphite, and Ethos Investment Management. Employment outcomes approach 85 percent, a remarkable achievement for a population often excluded from traditional recruitment pipelines. Remote work opportunities, numbering in the tens of thousands, allow graduates to remain rooted in their home nations while participating fully in the global economy, strengthening local communities rather than draining them of talent. These jobs also bring GDP into countries that often struggle to generate foreign direct investment.

Mr Eyring also built a global network of successful industry professionals who mentor students by helping them improve their English, develop soft skills, connect with internships, and eventually long-term careers.

What some institutions view as liability, Mr Eyring recognises as leadership potential. His work reflects a constructive stewardship of religious freedom, demonstrating that faith-based education, when exercised responsibly, strengthens the common good. BYU-Pathway operates within legal frameworks that protect freedom of religion or belief, welcoming students of varied backgrounds while forming principled leaders who strengthen families, businesses, congregations, and civic institutions alike.

In Africa and beyond, enrolment continues to expand rapidly. Government officials and ambassadors who observe the model frequently ask not whether it works, but how it might be replicated in their own nations, testimony to its credibility at the intersection of business, education, public life, and the responsible exercise of religious freedom. Matt Eyring has demonstrated that disciplined innovation, faith-informed leadership, and market alignment can transform those dismissed as marginal into contributors of global value.

For connecting education and employment; for building a scalable bridge from poverty to purpose; and for proving that social impact employment strengthens economies while preserving dignity, we are honoured to present the 2026 Global Business & Interfaith Peace Award to Matt Eyring.