



George and Regi
Herzlinger
Charitable Fund

CAHME / George and Regi Herzlinger Innovation Education Award: 2026 Platinum Award Application Guide

About the Platinum Award

The Platinum Award recognizes a CAHME Accredited or Certified previous award Recipient that over the years, has:

- Delivered measurable social benefit through successful health care
- Advanced the teaching of health care innovation through proven pedagogical strategies.
- Actively shared best practices with the broader CAHME academic community.

The Platinum Award includes a \$10,000 grant and a commemorative physical award presented to the winning program.

Eligibility Criteria

Only previous winners of the CAHME/Herzlinger Innovation Education Award are eligible to apply.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Essay Questions and Supporting Letter

1. All applicants must respond to: Use of Additional Funding

Prompt: Building on your previous use of award funding, describe how your program plans to utilize the additional resources provided through the Platinum Award. What new initiatives, enhancements, or expansions in health care innovation will this funding support, and how will these efforts further advance innovation, generate social benefit, and strengthen knowledge sharing within the CAHME community?

2. Applicants must choose one of the three categories below, respond to the prompt, and provide a supporting letter.

Category 1: Demonstrating Impact to Colleagues (Dissemination)	Category 2: Distribution of New Modes of Teaching health care innovation (Pedagogical Innovation in Teaching in Health Care Innovation)	Category 3: Hands-On, Real-World Innovation (Social Benefit & Student Performance)
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<p>Focus: How your program has shared innovation practices and lessons with other CAHME-accredited programs.</p>	<p>Focus: How your program has advanced innovation in teaching healthcare innovation.</p>	<p>Focus: Tangible innovations and student/alumni impact.</p>
<p>Prompt: Describe how your program has actively disseminated its innovation-related practices, pedagogical lessons, and outcomes to other CAHME accredited programs. In your response, include specific strategies used to share knowledge (e.g., presentations, published materials, mentorship, collaborative initiatives), the audiences reached, and any measurable or observed impacts of these efforts. Highlight how these activities have contributed to advancing the quality of innovation education across the CAHME network.</p>	<p>Prompt: Explain how your program has advanced innovation in the way it teaches healthcare innovation. Describe the new or adapted pedagogical approaches you have implemented over the past five years to foster innovation among students. Include examples of how faculty have been supported in adopting these methods, and discuss how these strategies have improved learning outcomes, student engagement, or innovation competency.</p>	<p>Prompt: Describe how your program has fostered real-world innovation that delivers measurable social benefit. Highlight specific examples of student- or alumni-led projects that have improved healthcare systems, delivery, or access. Explain how your program provides hands-on, high-impact opportunities—such as residencies, innovation labs, fellowships, or startup incubation—that enable students to apply innovative thinking in real-world contexts.</p>
<p>Supporting Letter: 1 Letter Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a peer faculty member at another CAHME-accredited program. <p>Should describe how your program’s shared practices influenced their curriculum or approach.</p>	<p>Supporting Letter: 1 Letter Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a faculty member or instructional designer in your healthcare innovation program. <p>Should explain how these methods improved learning outcomes or teaching effectiveness in the field of healthcare innovation.</p>	<p>Supporting Letter: 1 Letter Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a student or alumni innovator. <p>Should share a firsthand account of how the program supported their innovation journey.</p>

Submission Format for Essay Questions

- Character Count: 2,500–3,500 characters (with spaces) per prompt (Approx. Word Count: 400–600 words)

- Page Length: 1 single-spaced page per question (use of funding and selected category prompt) (11–12 pt font, 1-inch margins)

Optional Video Submission: Tell Your Innovation Story

Applicants may submit a short-recorded Zoom video (2–4 minutes) to be displayed alongside their essay responses. This video is optional - choosing not to submit one will not affect consideration of your application.

Suggested Structure:

Tell your innovation story:

- Introduce your program and state the year you previously received the CAHME/Herzlinger Innovation Education Award.
- Explain why your program was selected for the award—highlighting the innovative work that earned your initial recognition.
- Describe what your program has accomplished since winning the award, including continued or new initiatives, enhancements, or measurable impacts on students, healthcare systems, or the community.
- Share compelling examples of how your program has advanced innovation in healthcare management—through teaching strategies, impactful student projects, or initiatives delivering measurable social benefit.

Demonstrate your innovative culture:

- Introduce key faculty, staff, and/or students who are driving innovation in your program.
- Discuss how your team fosters a culture of creativity, experimentation, and continuous improvement in healthcare innovations.

Present your future innovation plans:

- Briefly describe how you plan to use the Platinum Award funding to launch or expand initiatives that advance innovation, generate social benefit, and promote knowledge.