

VIJAYA NAIR TRANSFORMATION AWARD

WHAT IS THE VIJAYA NAIR TRANSFORMATION AWARD?

It is a merit-based annual award that will enable an Oregon Executive MBA student to pursue innovative and transformational business opportunities that will have a positive impact on the world while yielding financial rewards to the entrepreneur, in the spirit of “doing well by doing good.”

WHO IS VIJAYA NAIR?

Vijaya Nair is an immigrant of three countries: Malaysia, Singapore, and New Zealand. She has witnessed the transformation of nations. An entrepreneur in the early 1950s, at the age of 21, she pioneered the working woman concept when it was seldom celebrated. A mother of two entrepreneurs, a grandmother of four entrepreneurs, and a self-made, socially conscious servant leader, Vijaya currently resides in New Zealand. She lives the concept of “it’s not about you,” and constantly espouses service beyond one’s own self. She has always been more proud of her family when they are in service of those in need, not waiting until they have “made it” to give back, but instead giving whenever a need is seen.



One of Vijaya’s sons—**Mohan Nair**—is honored to issue this scholarship in his mother’s name. Mohan saw others help him through his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science. Now he is a self-made veteran of the business community in three major Oregon businesses, the president of two successfully exited startups, and currently senior vice president and chief innovation officer at Cambia Health Solutions. With ten years of experience as an adjunct professor at the JL Kellogg School of Management’s executive programs, Mohan now lectures in the Oregon Executive MBA program on Strategic Business Transformation, the subject of his third book published by Wiley & Sons.

In his teaching, Mohan challenges students to focus on community transformation rather themselves. His vision is for all students to reframe their learning to prepare their minds and skills for true transformation of both self and business, enabling them to find meaning as well as money. Mohan encourages students to focus on the quality of their service contributions as they simultaneously work to better their financial situations. He encourages service and cause to be always present and at the core of a new economic model to transform first self, and then the businesses we serve. At the core of Mohan’s philosophy is a simple yet powerful challenge: why create wealth with no meaning?



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WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD?

The award is \$5,000.00. The winner will receive the award as a tuition discount.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE?

Students who have completed their first year in the Oregon Executive MBA program.

HOW TO APPLY

Students may submit a one-page written proposal or a three-minute video or another brief creative form of expression. The proposal may relate to the student's capstone project but this is not a requirement.

Participants will explain how their idea, product, or service will:

- Innovatively change an existing industry or technology, or community.
- Serve society by doing good in Portland, the state of Oregon, the United States, or the entire world.
- Generate a profit.

DATES AND DEADLINES

- Proposals may be submitted to Kit Alderdice (kita@uoregon.edu) and are due no later than Monday, November 30, 2020.
- During fall term 2020, Mohan Nair and Oregon Executive MBA staff will review applications and conduct one-on-one interviews with finalists.
- The award recipient will be announced during winter term 2021.

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO?

Contact Kit Alderdice at kita@uoregon.edu or via Microsoft Teams.



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