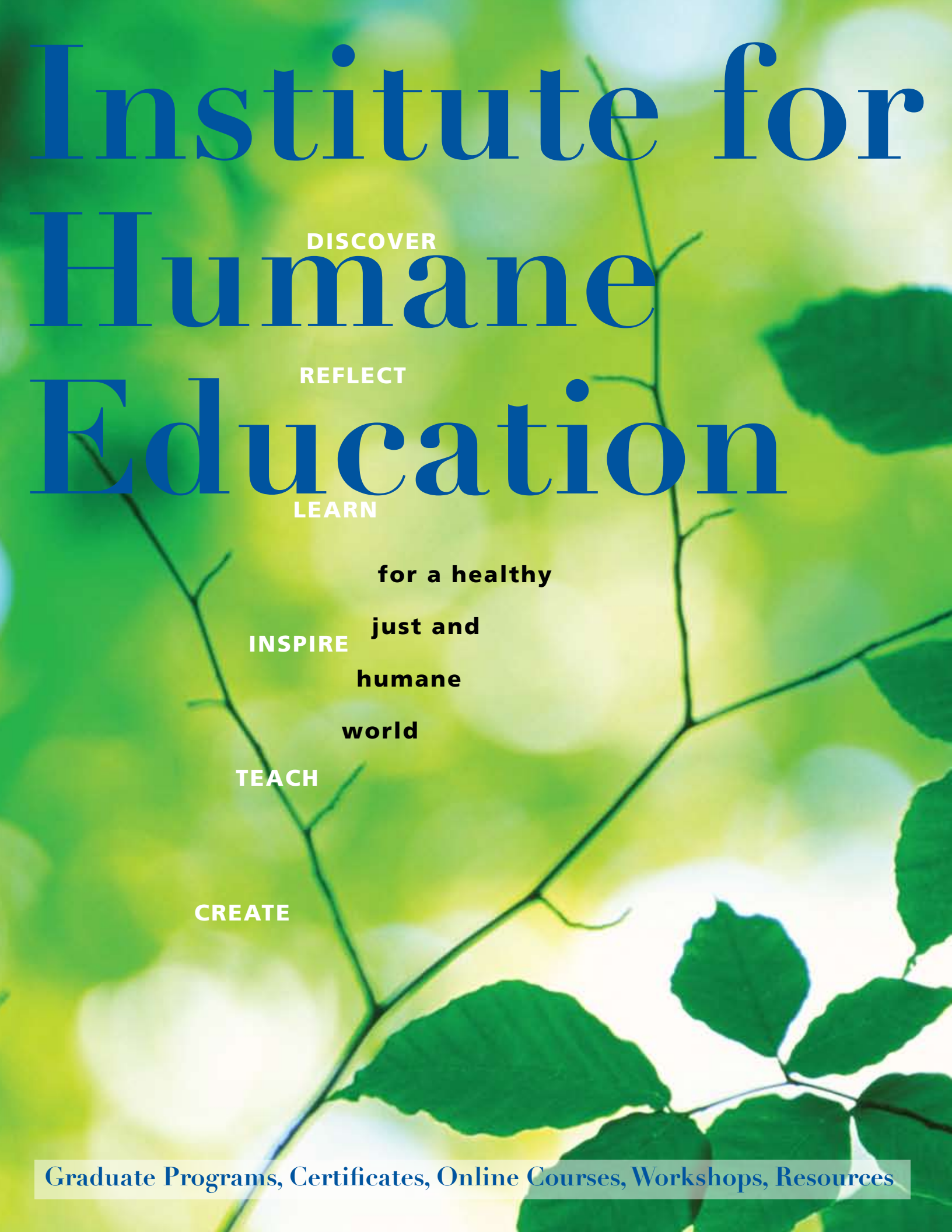
Institute for Humane Education
DISCOVER
REFLECT
LEARN
for a healthy
just and
INSPIRE
humane
world
TEACH
CREATE
Graduate Programs, Certificates, Online Courses, Workshops, Resources

Humane education is a comprehensive field of study that explores the connections between human rights, environmental preservation, animal protection and cultural influences. Humane education helps people to live with compassion and respect for all people, not just friends and neighbors; for all animals, not just pets; and for the earth itself, not just one's own home. It helps everyone to live an examined, intentional life so that what we do today, helps tomorrow.

Through IHE programs you learn to incorporate the inspiring, enlightening and life-altering tools of humane education into your life, your work, and the world.

When you study humane education you gain the ***knowledge and tools to put your values into action*** in meaningful and far-reaching ways. You learn the key elements that are at the heart of humane education, which are to:

- ***cultivate reverence, respect and responsibility*** for the earth, other species and all people
- ***convey accurate information*** so that people understand the consequences of their decisions as consumers and citizens
- ***inspire creativity, curiosity and critical thinking*** so that you and others can evaluate information and successfully solve problems
- ***encourage informed, mindful choices*** so that together we can help bring about a better world
- ***use inquiry, introspection and integrity*** to align your life fully with your values

Today, humane education is being incorporated into classrooms, workplaces, communities and lives around the world because of the Institute for Humane Education (IHE).

The Common Threads

IHE students share some common interests, concerns and passions. Perhaps you also share some of these:

- concern about the world today: from environmental degradation, to social injustice, to materialism to animal exploitation
- interest in finding ways to align your life more deeply with your values.
- desire for more tools and deeper learning about how to create the changes you envision
- eagerness for inspiration, empowerment and effective ways to be a change agent.

Everyone Can Be a Humane Educator

IHE students come from around the globe as teachers, parents, entrepreneurs, artists, designers, cultural creatives, lawyers, advocates, activists, counselors, policy-makers, administrators, concerned citizens, and more.

Whether you use humane education as the base for an entire school of solutionary learning, integrate it into your classroom, or use it in a workshop; whether your role as a humane educator is through traditional teaching, leadership, or parenting; whether your classroom happens through a camera, words, community, a law or medical degree, a business venture, public policy, advocacy, or art; whatever your particular role as a humane educator may be, collectively we can transform the world for the better through humane education.

IHE Programs

Education, Community & Action

At the heart of IHE are programs that provide the tools and resources to turn humane education into action, from online resources to single workshops and week-long institutes to 4–8 week-long online courses and certificates, to a premiere two-year graduate program. No matter where you live, what level of interest you have or the experience you bring, there is a place at IHE for you to connect and learn.

Raising a Humane Child

Teaching for a Positive Future

A Better World, A Meaningful Life

Online Courses

If you haven't taken an online course before, be prepared for a dynamic learning experience that in itself is changing the face of education. Many things are possible online that are not available in traditional classroom settings. IHE's online format allows our classes to be innovative and interactive in the use of communications technology, enables people across the globe to participate, keeps our programs affordable, provides a flexible learning environment, and quickly builds a powerful, cohesive community of learners. Most courses run for either 4 or 6 weeks.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the course, A Better World, A Meaningful Life *changed my life for the better. The thought-provoking exercises, support from a knowledgeable instructor and interaction with other course participants made the course effective and fun. I would recommend this course to absolutely everyone!*
Debbie Blivess, New York

This course awakens you to the critical issues of our time AND to the creative possibilities for solving them. I am buoyed up, hopeful and empowered to be part of that change, both personally and collectively.
Clare Ruthenburg, Maine

What to expect in an IHE online course:

- an easy to use course website with free training and support
- powerful connections with people from all over the world who share your passions
- open and well-moderated discussions throughout your coursework
- the flexibility to learn on your own schedule
- challenging, meaningful, and inspiring coursework
- support and mentoring from an IHE-trained humane educator
- a curriculum developed by the humane education leaders and pioneers at IHE
- a book, curriculum, resource kit and bonus exercises to keep you inspired and empowered well beyond the completion of the course
- an option to receive a certificate of completion and/or Continuing Education Credits

Graduate Programs

IHE's graduate programs are designed to give you the skills you need to integrate humane education deeply into your teaching, work, life, community and the world. The advanced degrees often lead to salary increases and promotions as well.

At its core, humane education uses the world as the classroom. This is why I am a humane educator. I see the study of the world and the challenges we face as the most important educational journey we can undertake. If we don't modify our lessons, our teaching, and ultimately our schools to this end we will not be successful in making the world a more compassionate place.
Christopher Greenslate, M.Ed. graduate; high school teacher

I enrolled in the M.Ed. program and started on what was to be some of the most transformative and beautiful learning I had ever undertaken. So many of us long to be a part of creating a better world but we don't know how to do this; IHE showed me that each of us has a unique set of skills and talents to share with the world, and that we can be humane educators wherever we are in life.
Holly Clark, M.Ed. graduate; college professor

My studies at IHE have had an enormous impact on my life. I am now a Humane Education Specialist. I do everything from reverence building activities with 2 year olds to giving Eco Impact presentations. What an amazing opportunity! I'm filled with tremendous hope for the future.
Lisa Forzley, M.Ed. student; Humane Education Specialist, Detroit Zoological Society

About the Graduate Programs

IHE's premiere program to study graduate level Humane Education is offered through a partnership with the highly-respected and accredited graduate school of Valparaiso University (www.valpo.edu). It is the only graduate program of its kind in comprehensive Humane Education. It includes both degree and certificate programs and is offered in an online format which allows students from the United States and abroad to complete the program remotely, with the exception of a one-week residency held at the IHE campus in Surry, Maine (required for two of the programs).

Five Distinct Programs

1. **Master of Education** (M.Ed.) in Humane Education (33 credits)
2. **Master of Arts** (M.A.) in Humane Education (33 credits)
3. **Concentration** in Humane Education for the M.Ed. in **Instructional Leadership** (15 credits)
4. **Concentration** in Humane Education for the **MALS** degree (15 credits)
5. Credit-bearing **Graduate Certificate** in Humane Education (either stand-alone or added to an existing degree) (15 credits)

Humane Education Core Courses are essential to all programs and include: Introduction to Humane Education, Environmental Ethics, Animal Protection, Human Rights, Culture and Change.

A One-Week Residency is required for the M.Ed. and M.A programs. It takes place at IHE's beautiful campus, on 28 oceanfront acres overlooking the mountains of Acadia National Park. The grounds include an organic garden, a beautiful wooded trail, and a pebble beach where seals, eagles, loons and osprey are frequently seen. This hands-on experience is a very popular part of the program.

A Master's Thesis is also part of the M.Ed. and M.A. programs. It represents not only the culmination of the student's studies, but also a creative contribution to the field of humane education. The topic must be professionally and socially relevant, challenging, and appropriate for the student's vision. In the project the student demonstrates the ability to integrate theory, research skills, academic course work, professional experience and goals.

Faculty

The primary faculty in the Humane Education graduate programs are leaders and pioneers in humane education, having inspired thousands of students throughout their careers. Consistent in their reviews, IHE students are glowing about the quality of the education and the attentiveness by the faculty to their individual needs as top reasons to attend IHE.

Humane Educators in Action

IHE graduates and students have incorporated humane education into their teaching (kindergarten through college) in subject areas such as math, social studies, history, art, biology, physics, economics, ecology, language arts and literacy, foreign language, drama, architecture, design, veterinary medicine, law, civics and environmental science classes.

Other graduates have:

- Founded non-profit organizations dedicated to humane education
- Started successful humane education programs in their communities
- Worked as outreach humane educators for non-profit organizations
- Created humane education businesses
- Written and published books
- Created public access humane education television shows
- Developed humane education centers
- Pursued doctoral programs
- Led humane education workshops
- Brought humane education into religious education programs
- Incorporated humane education issues into social work, law & healthcare
- Produced and directed award-winning humane education films
- Started humane education camps
- Created visiting humane education programs for schools, camps, and community centers
- Brought comprehensive humane education into work as a social entrepreneur

…everything that I learned in the Humane Education graduate program is now coming into play; including the thorough and all-encompassing academic material, and the tremendous support that I received from the dedicated faculty and fellow students.
Roberto Giannicola, IHE Certificate graduate; founder, Provokare Presentations

A Humane Education Community

IHE is a hub for humane educators to gather, share, network and collaborate. We provide a wealth of resources for alumni, teachers, parents, changemakers, advocates, and anyone who wants to learn how to better bring the issues of humane education—human rights, environmental preservation, and animal protection—into their lives, work, communication, and actions to create positive change for all. Through our website Resource Center, our social media sites, our Humane Connection blog and more, we inform and connect humane educators and concerned citizens across the globe.

Workshops

IHE holds workshops in the U.S. and Canada either as stand-alone events, in conjunction with conferences, or in partnership with other organizations, universities and schools. Tailored for different groups (teachers, activists, and concerned citizens) these workshops have inspired films, courses, school programs, non-profit initiatives, and new humane education approaches in a host of both traditional classroom and nontraditional settings. Participants routinely describe IHE workshops as "life-changing."

Summer Institute

IHE offers a one-week summer program for educators to enrich their minds with and open their hearts to new ideas while reconnecting with the most fundamental reasons for why they chose to teach. Educators explore their passion for teaching as a means of confronting pressing global challenges and learn to bring issues of social justice, environmental preservation, human rights and animal protection into their classrooms, programs and communities in ways that add even greater depth and relevancy to their work. They meet and practice new skills with other educators who share the same passion for inspiring people into action.

The Summer Institute takes place at IHE's beautiful campus, situated on 28 ocean-front acres overlooking the mountains of Acadia National Park.

I found the workshop the most educational program I have ever been part of.... my goals have become clear. You have shown me I can do anything. This was life changing, and I will never forget it. You are changing the world, and make me feel like I can too.
Allison Jaquish, Boulder, CO

[The Summer Institute is] a great introduction to such massive topics. I appreciate the care and manner in which you presented information and were open to views and discussion! A great balance of activities and work by students to make each day exciting and different! [We] learn every day, but this week was one of learning, growing and expanding my mind and perspective. I look forward to growing as a humane educator!
Andy Beardsley, high school English teacher, Ellsworth, ME

We hope you decide to take advantage of some of IHE's many programs and resources or find a way to support our work. By doing so, you will be helping to create positive change and a better future for all.

Humane Education Terminology

MOGO, short for "most good", is a quick way of thinking about the fundamental question that underlies humane education: How can each of us, through our daily choices, our acts of citizenship, our communities, our work, and our volunteerism do the most good and the least harm to ourselves, other people, other species, and the environment? The MOGO principle invites learners of all ages to inquire, introspect, and lead lives of integrity based on their knowledge and their values.

A solutionary is someone who identifies inhumane, unsustainable, and exploitative systems and then develops practical, effective, and visionary solutions, both large and small, to replace them with those that are restorative, healthy, and just. Solutionaries bring their knowledge and skills to bear on pressing and entrenched challenges in an effort to create positive changes for all people, animals and the earth.

Zoe Weil is the president and co-founder of the Institute for Humane Education. She has been a humane educator since 1985. As the visionary and thought-leader behind IHE, she has taught and inspired hundreds of thousands of people through her coursework, books, workshops, articles, lectures, blogs, TEDx talk and one-woman show. Her books are read in schools, programs, libraries, homes and businesses around the world and include Nautilus Silver Medal winter *Most Good, Least Harm: A Simple Principle for a Better World and Meaningful Life*; *Above All, Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times*; *The Power and Promise of Humane Education*; and Moonbeam gold medal winner for juvenile fiction, *Claude and Medea*, about 7th graders who become clandestine activists, righting wrongs where they find them. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Divinity School.

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PO Box 260
Surry, ME 04684
207-667-1025
www.HumaneEducation.org

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The Institute for Humane Education (IHE) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization headquartered in Surry, ME. Since its founding in 1996 HIE has trained thousands of people in humane education. IHE believes that the teaching of relevant knowledge and the commitment to living sustainably and humanely should be the underlying purpose of education and that the goal of schooling should be to graduate solutionaries ready and able to bring their knowledge and passions to bear on creating a healthy, just world for all. IHE believes that humane education may well be the most revolutionary and effective means that society has to create such a world.

The world becomes what you teach