



## Press Release

Contact: COO Henry Nicols  
[Henry.Nicols@Bridges.edu](mailto:Henry.Nicols@Bridges.edu)  
607.547.9357

May 22, 2023  
For immediate release  
Studio City, CA

### **BRIDGES GRADUATE SCHOOL TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORATE TO JACK HORNER**

Internationally celebrated paleontologist Jack Horner will receive an honorary Doctorate of Education from the Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

John Robert Horner studied for years at the University of Montana but, due to undiagnosed severe dyslexia, was never able to complete a traditional bachelor's degree. Yet, among many other awards, he later received a MacArthur "genius" grant, and currently teaches as a Presidential Fellow at Chapman University. He has published over 100 professional papers and eight books.

Some of Horner's major scientific contributions included cracking open a dinosaur egg, observing the first dinosaur embryo, and settling questions such as whether some dinosaurs were sociable, built nests, and cared for their young. You might not know his name but you would likely recognize him as the inspiration for Dr. Alan Grant in the Jurassic Park movie series, for which he served as technical advisor.

Bridges Graduate School selected Jack Horner to receive this year's honorary degree not only for his notable accomplishments in the field of paleontology and for inspiring generations of students but also, importantly, for his continued advocacy supporting neurodiversity in education! Although his lived-experience shows how easily a student's exceptional abilities and interests can be overshadowed by learning challenges, he vividly demonstrates the power that interests play in successful learning.

While his story is filled with academic disappointments and difficulties, it is a journey inspired and encouraged by his on-going passion for paleontology. Jack Horner is a role model for those with learning challenges. His experiences bring hope to all bright individuals whose brains are wired differently.

Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education, founded in 2016, offers three programs: A certificate in 2e (Twice Exceptional) Education; a Master's degree in Education; and a Doctorate of Education.

The degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa, (Ed.D.hc) will be conferred on Horner at the Graduation Ceremony at the Bridges Education Group's campus in Studio City on June 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. Horner will also deliver the commencement address. There is limited seating available. If you would like to reserve a seat, please complete this [form](#).

**For additional information:** Contact Henry Nicols, Ed.D. hc at [Henry.Nicols@Bridges.edu](mailto:Henry.Nicols@Bridges.edu) 607.547.9357