WLA Awards History

(As of February 1, 2023)

This document lists the names of association awards and recipients for all Wyoming Library Association (WLA) awards and grants. It is an attempt to provide some enduring record of those librarians, trustees and volunteers who made important contributions to the state's library community. The variety of awards presented to Wyoming librarians and libraries often changed in name and purpose prior to 1980, but have been fairly consistent since that year. Jerry Krois, Wyoming State Library, conducted research and completed the first version of this history in October 2002. Jerry attempted to provide a complete history for the Fisher, Shovlain and Milstead awards, and as comprehensive a list of other award winners with WLA sources available.

ACTIVE AWARDS

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Created in 2021, this award recognizes the achievements and accomplishments of a library employee throughout their library career, including service to the public and/or library community. It is also meant to reflect the goals of the Wyoming Library Association and the library profession as a whole.

- 2022: Richard Landreth - Lincoln County Library System
- 2021: Michelle Havenga - Sheridan County Public Library System

**Outstanding Hero/Heroine Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding person or group whose hard work has made a difference to a Wyoming library within the last two years.

- 2022: Nancy Loomis and Jeff Geyer, volunteer work on behalf of Laramie County Library
- 2021: Jana Pastor, volunteer work on behalf of Rock Springs Library
- 2020: Olympus Games and Comics, Laramie County Library
- 2019: Dolleen Grobe, volunteer work on behalf of the Ten Sleep Branch of the Washakie County Library
- 2018: Jeanette Smith, Crook County Library Foundation
- 2017: Carbon County Library System, Elk Mountain Library Community Members
- 2016: Jennifer Rife, Laramie County Library System
- 2015: Vicki Wallace, Big Horn Library
- 2014: Laura Block, Laramie County Public Library
- 2013: Fred Parsons, Natrona County Public Library
- 2012: Elizabeth Gaines, Hulett Branch Library
- 2011: Megan Herold, Johnson County Library
- 2010: Kip Bethurem, Sheridan County Public Library System
- 2009: Lesley Boughton, Wyoming State Library
- 2008: Julie Eatmon, Volunteer Specialist - Laramie County Library
- 2007: Gina Valencia
- 2006: Mike Klopfenstein, Laramie County School District #1
- 2005: Emily Daly, Natrona County Public Library
- 2004: Sue Hollingshead, Laramie County Library System
- 2003: Susie Scott-Mullen, Wyoming Community Foundation
- 2002: <No award>
- 2001: <No award>
- 2000: Paul & Violet Smith, Crook County Library
- 1999: Trish Palluck, Wyoming State Library
- 1998: Mary Coffin, Laramie County Community College Library
- 1997: Colleen Williams, Park County Library
- 1996: Enid Teeter, The University of Wyoming Libraries
- 1995: Kevin Anderson, Casper College Library
- 1994: Donna Blakeman, Crook County School Library
- 1993: Imogene White, Johnson County Library
- 1992: <No award>

**Outstanding Librarian Award**

This award recognizes the significant accomplishments of a library employee who improves library service to customers, contributes to WLA and the profession, and/or contributes to the library’s community.

- 2022: Paula Sabatka, Fremont County School District #2
- 2021: Rachael Svoboda, Laramie County Library System
- 2020: Conrrado Saldivar, Natrona County Library
- 2019: Devin Hodgins, Crest Hill Elementary - Natrona County School District
- 2018: Janet Tharp, Campbell County Public Library
- 2017: Karen Kitchens, Wyoming State Library
- 2016: Judy Armstrong, Sheridan County Library System
- 2015: Claire Francis, Uinta County Library
- 2014: <No award>
- 2013: Betsy O'Neil, Natrona County Library
- 2012: Nicholle Gerharter, Natrona County Library
- 2011: Jamie Markus, Wyoming State Library
- 2010: Chris Van Burgh, Wyoming State Library
- 2009: <No award>
- 2008: Cynthia Twing, Johnson County Library
- 2007: Karen Lange, Laramie County Community College
- 2006: Kate Mutch, Natrona County Library
- 2005: Bonnie Stahla, Crook County Library
2004: Kay Carlson, Northwest College Library
2003: Jerry Jones, Natrona County Public Library
2002: Crystal Havely Stratton, Laramie County Community College Library
2001: Amy Shelley, Laramie County Library System
2000: Betsy Bernfeld, Teton County Library
1999: Brian Greene, Wyoming State Library
1998: Ada Howard, Fremont County Library
1997: Mary Jayne Jordan, Sundance Junior and Senior High School Library
1996: Isabel Hoy, Goshen County Library
1995: Alice Meister, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library
1994: Helen Higby, Sweetwater County Library
1993: Theresa Bermingham
1992: Deborah Procter, Campbell County High School Library
1991: Marcia Wright, Campbell County Library
1990: Gaydell Collier, Crook County Library
1989: Susan Simpson, Albany County Library
1988: <No award>
1987: Carolyn Harrington, Worland Middle School Library
1986: Agnes Milstead, The University of Wyoming
1985: Wilmot (Willi) McFadden, Rock Springs Public Library
1984: Barbara Fraley, Johnson County Library
1983: Debbie Iverson, Sheridan College Library
1982: Helen Jones, Carbon County Schools
1981: Rose Mary Malone, Natrona County High School and Casper College Libraries
1980: Bill Heuer, Fremont County Library
1979: Bess Sheller, Carbon County Library
1978: <No award>
1977: Lisa Lang, Albany County Library
1976: Georgia Shovlain, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

**Outstanding Library Award**
This award recognizes a significant project completed within the last two years. The staff, library board and the community or people served shall all be involved in the work for which recognition is sought.

- 2022: Campbell County Library
- 2021: Wyoming State Library
- 2020: Ten Sleep Library, Washakie County Libraries
- 2019: Laramie County Community College Ludden Library & Learning Commons, Expansion
- 2018: Natrona County Library, Makerspace
- 2017: Johnson County Library, Library Expansion Buffalo, Wyoming
- 2016: <No award>
Nora Van Burgh Professional Development Grant

This grant provides funding assistance to those who wish to enhance their effectiveness as library employees through additional educational experience. Nora Van Burgh began her career in Wyoming libraries as a student assistant at Natrona County High School Library. She received her Masters of Library Science degree from The University of Oregon in 1978 and was employed at Casper College for many years. A strong believer in lifelong learning, she served on the WLA Continuing Education Committee. WLA created the Professional Development Grants in 1985 and changed the award name in 1991 to honor her memory.

- 2022: Melissa Haderlie (Star Valley Branch Library, Lincoln County Library District), Katie Remme (Wright Branch Library, Campbell County Library District)
- 2021: DeeAnna Waters (Fairview Elementary, Cheyenne)
- 2020: <No award>
- 2019: Melissa Haderlie (Star Valley Branch Library, Lincoln County Library District), Melissa Snider (Munger Mountain Elementary School, Teton County School District), Angela Rader (Campbell County Public Library), and Judi Boyce (Sublette County Libraries - Pinedale)
- 2018: Jennifer Beckstead, Natrona County Public Library
- 2017: <No award>
- 2016: <No award>
- 2015: <No award>
- 2014: Shari Haskins, Fremont County Library-Riverton
- 2013: Jamie Forbes, Midwest School Library
- 2012: Sharon Mikesell, Laramie County Library System
- 2011: <No award>
- 2010: Mary Hipol, Uinta County Library
- 2009: Venice Beske, Wyoming State Library
- 2008: Dail Barbour, Teton County Library for a workshop in Public Library Administration and Peggy Jording, Newcastle Middle School for a workshop in Children's Literature
- 2007: Ara Anderson and Richard Landreth
- 2006: Kashawna White, Laramie County Library System
- 2005: Cindy Moore, Sweetwater County Library System
- 2004: <No award>
- 2003: <No award>
- 2002: Laurie Lye, Casper College Library
- 2001: Katrina Jones, Laramie County Library System and Nancy Miller, Northwest College, John Taggart Hinckley Library
- 2000: Tobi Liedes-Bell, Washakie County Library
- 1999: Deb Kelly, Northwest College, John Taggart Hinckley Library and Carolyn Groves Winkler, Teton County Library
- 1998: Nancy Van Fleet, Sheridan Junior High School Library and Mary Coffin, Laramie County Community College Library
- 1995: Betsy Bernfeld, Teton County Library; Diane Martin, Northwest College John Taggart Hinckley Library; Patty Myers, Johnson County Library; and Cathy Butler, Weston County Library
- 1994: Tahna Naylor, Carbon County Library
- 1993: Alice Meister, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library
- Unknown years:
INACTIVE/DEFUNCT AWARDS

Andy Fisher Technology Award
Community Supporter Award
Distinguished Service Award
Georgia Shovlain Award
Library Support Award
Media Support Award
Milstead Award
Newbie Award
SIRS/WLA Intellectual Freedom Award
Trustee/Volunteer Award

Andy Fisher Technology Award

This award recognized a Wyoming library that accomplished a significant technology related project completed within the last two years. Andy Fisher was the Wyoming State Librarian from 1963 through 1967. He was a Wyoming native and a graduate of the University of Wyoming. After leaving Wyoming State Library he became the Regional Program Officer in Denver for the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) for the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. He was honored with the WLA Meritorious Service Award for 1968. The award was created in 1979 and first presented in 1980. The award was a traveling painting of the Grand Tetons by a former Wyoming artist. This award was given from 1980 until 2014.

- 2014: The University of Wyoming Libraries, Web Team
- 2013: <No award>
- 2012: The University of Wyoming Libraries, Access Services
- 2011: <No award>
- 2010: Teton County Library IT Department
- 2009: <No award>
- 2008: Laramie County Library System
- 2007: <No award>
- 2006: Teton County Library Tech Team
- 2005: <No award>
- 2004: Laramie County Library System
- 2003: Campbell County Public Library, Carolyn Marvin and the Reference Staff for the Local Newspaper Indexing Project
- 2002: Teton County Library, Latino Outreach Program
- 2001: <No award>
- 2000: Laramie County Library System
- 1999: <No award>
- 1998: <No award>
- 1997: Teton County Library
- 1996: Laramie County Library System
- 1995: Albany County Public Library
- 1994: Sheridan County Library System, Story Branch Library
- 1990: Crook County Library
- 1989: Johnson County Library
- 1988: <No award>
- 1987: <No award>
- 1986: Carbon County Library
- 1985: Fremont County Library, Riverton Branch Library
- 1984: Albany County Library, Centennial Branch
- 1983: Fremont County Library, Crowheart Branch Library
- 1982: Goshen County Library
- 1981: Fremont County Library
- 1980: Albany County Library

Community Supporter Award
This award recognized a library supporter (for example an elected official, financial benefactor, community supporter or individual) who was not a library employee or volunteer. The name of this award was changed from Meritorious Service Award in 2013. This award was given from approximately 1979 to 2015.

- 2015: Representative Tim Stubson
- 2014: Cathy Craig, Fort Washakie
- 2013: Prairie Wind Elementary PTO, Gillette
- 2012: Thomas Hinman, Big Horn County Library
- 2011: <No award>
- 2010: Natrona County Public Library Foundation
- 2009: Mick and Susie McMurry
- 2008: Susan and Doug Samuelson
- 2007: Kay Nord
- 2006: John Jorgensen
- 2005: Billy & Margaret Balthrop
- 2004: David Morey
- 2003: Colleen Eifealdt
- 2001: Carol McMurry
- 2000: Noel Griffith, Jr
- 1999: Friends of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library
- 1998: Loretta Durfee, Crook County Library
- 1997: Ester Divall, Albany County Public Library
- 1996: Casper Breakfast Optimist Club
- 1995: Zonta Club of Cheyenne
- 1994: Chuck Thompson, Professor, Laramie County Community College
- 1993: Friends of the Johnson County Library
- 1992: Penny Schenker, volunteer, Albany County Library and Laramie High School Library
- 1991: Betty Ouenderkirk and Wilma Bovie, Friends of the Natrona County Library
- 1990: Cherry Willisam, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Board
- 1989: Patti Sims and Rexanne East, Glenrock Branch Library
- 1988: Mobil Coal Producing Inc, Caballo Rojo Mine, Campbell County
- 1985: Regina Barrington, Albany County Library volunteer
- 1984: Rexanne East, Glenrock Branch Library and Patti Sims, Glenrock Branch Library
- 1983: Gwen Rice, Wyoming State Library
- 1982: <No award>
- 1981: Friends of the Natrona County Library
- 1980: <No award>
- 1979: Roseine Church, Wyoming Department of Education
- Unknown years:
  - Ed Byers, Laramie County Library System
  - Dolly Edmonds, Lincoln County Library
  - Wayne H. Johnson, Wyoming State Library
  - Corky Walters, Wyoming State Library

**Distinguished Service Award**

This award recognized the significant accomplishments of a library or foundation employee who was part of the Wyoming library community for at least the past five years, and their contributions toward the improvement of library service to customers; contributions to WLA and the profession; and/or contributions to the library community. This award was given from 1988 to 2015.

- 2015: Bill Van Arsdale, The University of Wyoming Libraries
- 2014: Steve Boss, The University of Wyoming Libraries
- 2013: Martha Hanscom, The University of Wyoming Libraries
- 2012: Ginny Kilander, American Heritage Center
- 2011: Debbie Sturman, Niobrara County Library
- 2010: Paul Heimer, Albany County Library
- 2009: Michelle Havenga, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library
- 2008: Bill Nelson, Director, Natrona County Public Library
- 2007: Dale Collum, Uinta County Public Library
- 2006: Anne M. Lane, Toppen Rare Books Library, The University of Wyoming
- 2005: Mary Lou Bowles-Banks, Fremont County School District #2
- 2004: Lucie Osborn, Laramie County Library System
- 2003: Alice Hild Farris, Cheyenne Central High School
- 2002: Debbie Iverson, Sheridan College Griffith Memorial Library
- 2001: Debra Adams, Teton County Library
- 2000: Debbie Schlinger, Teton County Library
Georgia Shovlain Award
This award recognized a Wyoming library that accomplished a significant special project completed within the last two years. Georgia Shovlain was director of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library in Sheridan from 1965 to 1979. She was a strong advocate for children and community programs and received three John Dana Cotton national awards for the library. Georgia also served as American Library Association Councilor from Wyoming between 1972 and 1975. This award was given from 1980 to 2014.

- 2014: Teton County Library, Affordable Care Act Health Navigation Services
- 2013: Teton County Library, "Filament Mind" and Library Expansion
- 2012: Natrona County Library
- 2011: Natrona County Public Library and Walter Jones
- 2010: Worland Friends of the Library
- 2009: <No award>
- 2008: Teton County Library, Alta Branch staff
- 2007: <No award>
- 2006: Eastern Wyoming College
- 2005: <No award>
- 2004: <No award>
- 2003: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, After School @ Your Library Project
- 2002: Wyoming State Library, WYLD Migration and Implementation Team
- 2001: Laramie County Community College Library
- 2000: Campbell County Library for the Readers Theatre
- 1999: <No award>
- 1998: <No award>
- 1997: Wyoming State Library, WYLD Office
- 1996: Laramie County Community College Library, Academic Libraries Resource Project
- 1995: <No award>
- 1994: Laramie County Library System, Storybooks Project
- 1993: The University of Wyoming Libraries, Wyoming Newspaper Project
- 1992: <No award>
1991: Campbell County Public Library
1990: University of Wyoming Libraries, CARL Publicity Task Force
1989: <No award>
1988: <No award>
1987: Cheyenne East High School Library
1986: Johnson County Library
1985: Casper College Library
1984: Casper College Library
1983: <No award>
1982: Fremont County Library, Story Hour Players
1981: Johnson County Library
1980: Rock Springs Carnegie Public Library

Library Support Award
Established in 2010, this award recognized a Wyoming individual or group who was visionary in the future of Wyoming's libraries. This award was only issued one time in 2010.
  2010: Governor Dave Freudenthal

Media Support Award
This award recognized a specific media individual, company or group providing general support of a library or a special project. This award was given from 1995 to 2015.
  2015: <No award>
  2014: Gillette Public Access Television
  2013: Sarah Hale, Editor, Star Valley Independent Lincoln County
  2012: Casper Star Tribune
  2011: The Sheridan Press
  2010: Jerry Raehal, Editor and Publisher of the Rawlins Daily Times
  2009: Torrington Telegram
  2007: Bruce McCormack, Cody Enterprise
  2006: Micah Sturr, Laramie Boomerang
  2005: Steve Norris, KIML, Basin Radio
  2004: Daily Rocket-Miner
  2003: High Plains Sentinel
  2002: Robb Hicks, Buffalo Bulletin
  2001: Paul & Lynn Montoya, KJGL, Cheyenne
  2000: Casper Journal
  1999: <No award>
  1998: <No award>
  1997: <No award>
  1996: <No award>
  1995: Howard Allen & The Sundance Times, Sundance
Milstead Award

This award recognized a Wyoming library that accomplished a significant project or service that benefited children and/or teens. This award was established in 1974 in honor of the late husband of Agnes Milstead to reflect their interest in youth and children's literature. Agnes was a former professor in library science and children's literature at the University of Wyoming. Among her professional activities, Mrs. Milstead served on the Wyoming State Library Board and Albany County Library Board. This award was given from 1974 to 2015.

- 2015: Learning Resource Center and Shannon Smith
- 2014: <No award>
- 2013: Laramie County Library System, Discover Earth: A Century of Change Exhibit
- 2012: Johnson County Libraries
- 2011: American Heritage Center
- 2010: Washakie County Library, Vicki Lawler
- 2009: <No award>
- 2008: Natrona County Library, Youth Services staff
- 2007: <No award>
- 2006: Natrona County Library, Children's Department
- 2005: <No award>
- 2004: Laramie County Library System, Outreach staff
- 2003: <No award>
- 2002: Laramie County Library System
- 2001: <No award>
- 2000: <No award>
- 1999: Fremont County Library, Story Hour Players
- 1998: Laramie County Library System, Youth Advisory Board
- 1997: Cheyenne Central High School Library and Cheyenne East High School Library
- 1996: Albany County Public Library
- 1995: Jackson Hole Middle School Media Center
- 1994: Campbell County Public Library, Children's Library
- 1993: <No award>
- 1992: Laura Irvin Elementary School Library, Basin
- 1991: <No award>
- 1990: Campbell County Public Library
- 1989: Natrona County Library, Children's Department
- 1988: Buffalo Elementary School Library
- 1987: Johnson County Library
- 1986: <No award>
- 1985: Albany County Library, Children's Department
- 1984: Natrona County Library
- 1983: Powell Branch Library
- 1982: Laramie County Library System
- 1981: Riverton Middle School Library
- 1980: Midwest School Library
- 1979: Natrona County Library
- 1978: Fremont County Library
Newbie Award

The Newbie Award was developed to recognize the efforts of a library employee who worked in the library profession or field for less than six years and made significant contributions to the organization. The award provided an opportunity for WLA to recognize an outstanding young person who made a library in Wyoming better. The Above and Beyond Award was issued in 1982 and 1983. The "Award" Award was established in 1984 to replace the "Above and Beyond" award and was a general catch-all for anyone who deserved an award, but whose achievement didn’t fit any other category. Awards were given for a humorous or horror story, a major or minor achievement or a noble deed. In 2010, the Newbie Award replaced the "Award" Award.

- 2014: Pamela Fanelli, Albany County Library
- 2012: Colleen Moran, Sublette County Library
- 2011: <No award>
- 2010: Brenda Thomson, Natrona County Public Library
- 2009: Denise Jackson, Lincoln Elementary School
- 2008: Sue Dennis, Teton County Library volunteer
- 2007: Larry Kummer
- 2006: Tina Lackey, Wyoming State Library
- 2005: Phil Rumpel, Laramie County Library System
- 2004: Greta Lehnerz, Natrona County Public Library and Missy Falcey, Teton County Library
- 2003: Isabel Hoy and the Staff of the Goshen County Library
- 2002: Dail Barbour, Teton County Library
- 2001: Rodney Knudson, Hulett School Library
- 2000: Loucille Adams, Fremont County Library
- 1998: Mike Williams, Park County Library
- 1997: Friends of the Powell Branch Library
- 1996: Jon Willette
- 1995: Linda Love and Rose Marie Davidson, Johnson County Library Board
- 1994: Lynn Erickson, Laramie County Library System
- 1993: Stephanie M. Copeland, Albany County Public Library
- 1992: Linda Nousianen, Teton County Library
- 1991: Marc Stratton, Wyoming State Library
- 1990: Casper College Library Staff
- 1989: Nancy Effinger, Teton County Library
- 1988: Sandy Frazier, Albany County Library
- 1987: Corky Walters, Wyoming State Library
- 1986: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Patrons
- 1985: Jerry Krois, Wyoming State Library
- 1984: Rick Richmond, Sublette County Library
- 1983: Leonard Clarke, Carbon County Library Board
1982: Ed Byers, Laramie County Library System

**SIRS/WLA Intellectual Freedom Award**
This award recognized exemplary support of Intellectual Freedom.
- 2007: Converse County Library
- 2006: <No award>
- 2005: Crook County School District #1
- 2004: <No award>
- 2003: Marcia Wright, Campbell County Public Library
- 2001: Ron Franscell, Denver Post journalist and formerly with Gillette News-Record
- 2000: Bruce Moats, Cheyenne attorney
- 1999: Charles Levendosky, Casper Star-Tribune

**Trustee/Volunteer Award**
This award recognized an individual or a group that accomplished outstanding volunteer service and accomplishments for a library. This award was given from 1976 to 2015 and was known as the Trustee Citation from 1976 to 2010.
- 2015: Bonnie Cohee, Campbell County Library
- 2014: Bob & Sue Moore, Natrona County Public Library
- 2013: Steve Reinman, Johnson County
- 2012: Lynn Wegner, Teton County Library
- 2011: Margaret Lungren
- 2010: Julie Cash, Laramie County Library Foundation
- 2009: Chris Mullen, Natrona County Public Library
- 2008: Laramie County Library System Board
- 2007: <No award>
- 2006: Rose Proctor, Crook County Library
- 2005: Mary J. Wendel, Fremont County Library System
- 2004: <No award>
- 2003: Jack Mueller, Wyoming State Library Board
- 2002: Ruth Ann McCann, Johnson County Library Board
- 2001: Douglas K Bryant, Albany County Public Library Board and Cynthia Thomas, Park County Library Board
- 2000: <No award>
- 1999: John Becker, Teton County Library Board
- 1998: Bonnie Hefenieder, Washakie County Library Board
- 1997: Bruce Heimbuch, Platte County Library Board
- 1996: Jeff Ketchum, Laramie County Library System Board
- 1995: Rande Money, Johnson County Library Board
- 1994: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Foundation Board, Inc.
- 1993: Sandy Zeimans, Goshen County Library Board
- 1992: Norm Brown, Albany County Library Board
- 1991: Gisele Robinson, Crook County Library Board and John McWilliams, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Board
1990: <No award>
1989: Agnes Hand, Natrona County Library Board
1988: Norma Prevedel, Sweetwater County Library Board
1987: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Board
1986: Phyllis Shaw, Park County Library Board
1985: Ken Richardson, Fremont County Library Board
1984: Bette Thompson, Sublette County Library Board
1983: Natrona County School District 1 Board of Trustees
1982: Eleanor Witzenburger, Laramie County Library System Board
1981: John Dayton, Lincoln County Library Board
1980: Dolly Edmonds, Lincoln County Library Board
1979: Doris Engel, Weston County Library Board
1978: Paul Smith, Crook County Library Board
1977: Charlotte Vivion, Carbon County Library Board
1976: Anne Nightingale, Fremont County Library Board