

WLA Awards History

(As of December 2018)

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

[Outstanding Hero/Heroine Award](#)

[Outstanding Librarian Award](#)

[Outstanding Library Award](#)

[Nora Van Burgh Professional Development Grant](#)

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.

- 2018: Jeanette Smith, Crook County Library Foundation
- 2017: Carbon County Library System, Elk Mountain Library Community Members
- 2016: <No award>
- 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 Bethrurem, 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>
- 1991: Karen Lange, The University of Wyoming Libraries

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.

- 2018: Janet Tharp, Campbell County Public Library
- 2017: Karen Kitchens, Wyoming State Library
- 2016: <No award>
- 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 Havelly 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.

- 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.

- 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 Lieder-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:
 - Enid Teeter, The University of Wyoming Libraries
 - Tobi Liedes-Bell, Washakie County Library
 - Sylvia Batenhorst, Big Horn County Library
 - Karen Mydland, Sheridan College Library
 - Marjorie Buchholz, Park County Library
 - Marsha Brandbury, Natrona County Library
 - Sue Knesel, Campbell County Library
 - Mary Rhoads, Johnson County Library

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 Eifealtd
- 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 Ouderkirk 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
- 1987: 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
- 1999: Mary Rhoads, Johnson County Library
- 1998: Dorothy Middleton, Cheyenne East High School Library
- Helen Graham, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library
- 1997: <No award>
- 1996: Janet Norrod, Laramie County Library System

- 1995: Lynnette Anderson, Casper College Library
- 1994: Jerry Krois, Wyoming State Library
- 1993: Cathy Butler, Weston County Library
- 1992: Sandra Donovan, Laramie County Community College Library
- 1991: Lesley Boughton, Carbon County Library
- 1990: Nora Van Burgh, Casper College Library
- 1989: Nancy Jennings, Johnson County Library
- 1988: Bess Sheller, Carbon 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
- 2008: Karen Cotton, The Wyoming Tribune-Eagle
- 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, KJL, 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
- 1977: Moorcroft School Library
- 1976: Wheatland High School 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
- 1999: Erin Kinney, F.E. Warren Air Force Base Library and Scott Kinney, Laramie County Library System
- 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 Witzemberger, 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