



Council of State Archivists

Documenting government · Promoting history · Securing rights

For Immediate Release

Contact: Anne W. Ackerson, CoSA Executive Director

T: 518-473-9098

E: awackerson@statearchivists.org

Council of State Archivists Announces 2014 National Awards Recipients

[ALBANY, NEW YORK] — [July 15, 2014] – The Council of State Archivists (CoSA), a national association representing the heads of the country’s 56 state and territorial archives, announces the recipients of its 2014 awards, which will be presented during its annual meeting this August in Washington, DC. “We believe this year’s recipients embody superlative leadership and professional commitment to government archives,” said Julia Marks Young, chairperson of CoSA’s Awards Program Committee and Director of the Archives and Records Services Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Serving with Young on the committee were John Dougan, Missouri State Archivist, Chelle Somsen, South Dakota State Archivist, and Sandra Treadway, State Archivist and Librarian of Virginia.

Awards were made in three categories:

Advocacy for Archives Award: This year’s award recipient is Congressman David E. Price from North Carolina’s 4th District. Congressman Price authored and fought for the amendment that both continued the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and increased its funding to the current \$5 million level. His leadership helped ensure that the Commission would have grant funds to support the archival and editing fields. Price received his undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and went on to Yale University to earn a Bachelor of Divinity as well as a Ph.D. in Political Science. Before he began serving in Congress in 1987, Price was a professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of four books on Congress and the American political system. Price currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for housing, transportation, military construction and veterans affairs appropriations.

Victoria Irons Walch Leadership Award: Christine W. Ward, Assistant Commissioner and State Archivist at the New York State Archives will receive this year's award, named in honor of CoSA's first executive director. An archivist since 1975, and with the New York State Archives since 1981, Ward became the State Archivist in 2003. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Archives Partnership Trust, a nonprofit funding and programming arm of the Archives. Throughout her career, Ward has published and lectured extensively on topics concerning the archives profession. She has long provided expert advice to national organizations in conservation and preservation – the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Commission on Preservation and Access, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, and the Research Library Group.

As a member of the Society of American Archivists since 1981, she has chaired several national committees and was selected for the organization's Fellow Award, an honor given to individuals who exemplify the best of the profession. Ms. Ward has taught at the graduate level and as part of several continuing education programs.

The New York State Archives has received virtually every major national and regional award given by the archival profession. It operates programs that offer services to New York's 4300 local governments and 3000 community organizations and cares for more than 140 million records that are among the oldest in the country. "[My job is] very important to me," Ward says, "And it's important to me to convey the importance of archives to people around the state so people understand why it's important to keep records."

Victoria Irons Walch Leadership Travel Stipend: Veronica Martzahl, Electronic Records Archivist at the Massachusetts Archives, was selected to receive this travel stipend, which will afford her up to \$1,000 to attend CoSA's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Martzahl was chosen for her leadership contributions to the archives community, locally, regionally and nationally. She serves on CoSA's State Electronic Records Initiative Awareness and Advocacy sub-committee and recently developed and led a related webinar for CoSA on working with state chief technology officers. The travel stipend makes possible professional networking at a national level.

Rising Star Award: Rising stars are individuals, teams, or projects that exhibit innovative and creative approaches and solutions to their work, providing models for the field. The 2014 award recipient is the Governor Timothy Kaine E-mail Project Team at the Library of Virginia. This talented group of professionals-- consisting of eight state records archivists, a digital archives coordinator and a collections systems engineer, a web developer, and a records and information management coordinator-- assumed the challenge of providing access to approximately 1.3 million email messages from Governor Kaine's administration at a time when the technological and professional questions of how to make it happen far outnumber the available answers. As other states begin tackling how to provide access to born-electronic content, the Library hopes that they will draw inspiration from what Virginia was able to achieve.

FamilySearch: 2014 Awards Program Sponsor

CoSA's awards program this year is generously supported by FamilySearch, a nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations. For over 100 years, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide. "CoSA is extremely fortunate to have this important sponsorship from FamilySearch," said Matthew B. Veatch, CoSA President and Kansas State Archivist. "We could not undertake our many programs without our many sponsors, and we hope that FamilySearch is a part of CoSA's work for years to come."

About The Council of State Archivists' Awards Program:

The Council of State Archivists Awards Program acknowledges institutions, individuals, and programs that have enriched and strengthened our nation's state and territorial archives. It rewards innovative efforts and provides encouragement for the development of new and remarkable projects. By recognizing exemplary achievements, the Council of State Archivists hopes to inspire others to make similar contributions.

Awards are presented at CoSA's annual meeting each summer. CoSA is deeply committed to the positive impact state and territory archives make toward documenting government, preserving history and securing rights. CoSA's efforts to advance and promote this impact are critical elements of its work.

For more information on CoSA and the Awards Program, nomination form, guidelines and deadlines, please visit http://www.statearchivists.org/awards_program/index.htm

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