

Dr. Doris Dwyer

Today I am nominating a person who has made serving others a core trait of her character. I had the honor of working with this individual from 2004 to 2015 and observed her dedication to her community of Churchill County and Nevada. The person I am nominating is Dr. Doris Dwyer.

Dr. Dwyer was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio; one of six children. She became a first-generation college student at Eastern Kentucky University (BA, Social Science; MA, American and Russian History). After a three-year instructorship in the E.K.U. Learning Lab (one of the earliest in the nation) she earned a PhD in American History at Miami University in Ohio. Her first post-doctoral college teaching appointment was on the Navajo Reservation.

Doris' Nevada residency began in 1980, where she was hired as the first full-time history professor on the Fallon Campus of Western Nevada Community College. During her thirty-five year career at WNC, she taught required and elective history courses, as well as the entire sequence of Core Humanities courses. She is most proud of her teaching outreach to the WNC rural centers, teaching frequent on-site classes in Lovelock, Hawthorne, Yerington, Fernley Centers, as well as on the Carson and Douglas Campuses. With the advent of interactive video classes, she embraced this technology to facilitate the completion of course requirements for outlying rural students, in addition to her core student base on the Fallon Campus. When online technology superseded interactive video classes, she developed online courses to meet the U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirements for students unable to take on-campus classes. She articulated the first college Native American History survey course in the NSHE system (1983). Dr. Dwyer taught numerous history classes in off-campus locations for UNR and taught an American History Teacher Institute for the Washoe County School District (2009). Aside from her teaching duties, she served three times as Faculty Senate Chair for WNC and frequently served on college and search committees. Her previous experience with a college learning lab was essential in providing more effective class presentations and tutoring sessions to students new to the college experience.

Dr. Dwyer's teaching expertise was recognized numerous times during her lengthy teaching career. She was five times voted outstanding teaching faculty member by the Fallon Campus students and received the WNC Outstanding Faculty Member by her peers. In addition, she was the recipient of the WNC Community College Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence (2004) and the Regents Teaching Award (2005). In 2000 she was awarded the Governor's Humanities Award through the Nevada Humanities Committee. Most recently, Dr. Dwyer received the Preserve Nevada 2023 Legacy Award recognizing her contributions to Nevada history and culture.

An extension of her teaching career took the form of Chautauqua performance 1994-2016. She was a frequent presenter at the annual Great Basin Chautauqua, developing seven characters with varying degrees of connection to Nevada History. As a member of the NHC Speaker on the Road Program, she provided humanities programming in numerous Nevada venues, in large centers such as Reno, Las Vegas, Carson City, and Elko, as well as more remote locations in Laughlin, Denio, Ft. McDermitt, Gerlach, and other small Nevada communities. In connection with her Chautauqua experience, she has offered numerous workshops in Nevada museums and elsewhere to train young students in the art of Chautauqua. When Phi

Theta Kappa, the national honor society of two-year colleges held their conference in Sparks, Nevada, I was privileged to experience Dr. Dwyer presenting her Chautauqua performance.

Dr. Dwyer has an extensive record of public and community service to the state of Nevada. In Fallon, she served eight years on the Churchill County Library Board, nine years on the Churchill County Museum Board, as well as active memberships in A. A. U. W. and P. E. O., both of which provide annual scholarships to local college students. Her efforts have been recognized by the Fallon Business and Professional Women and AAUW as Community Woman of the Year.

Statewide, Doris has served on numerous public service boards, including:

- Nevada Humanities Committee, 1983-89.
- University of Nevada Press Board, 1997-2005
- Nevada Historical Society Quarterly Editorial Board, 1987-1995
- Advisory Board of Historic Preservation, 1990-1994
- Nevada Division of Museums and History Board, 1994-1999; 2011-2023
- Evaluator, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, 2009-2014

On the national level, Dr. Dwyer has served in a number of capacities that have given Nevada a voice in national historical trends and issues.

- U. S. Department of Education, Program Significance Panel, 1987
- Organization of American Historians Community College Committee, 2004-2006; Chair, 2006-2008
- Organization of American Historians Executive Board (Community College representative (2009-2012)

Dr. Dwyer is clearly a person with service to others as a priority. I am honored to nominate Dr. Dwyer for the Distinguished Nevadan Award.

Jeffrey S. Downs
Regent, District 11