



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

American Heritage Center

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER AWARD for UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH USING PRIMARY SOURCES

Purpose: Reward excellence in undergraduate research using primary sources at the AHC.

Amount: \$500.

Eligibility: UW undergraduates in any discipline; research must be for credit.

Deadline: 29 March 2024.

While a larger percentage of undergraduates at UW use the AHC's resources than average,¹ and from a broader range of disciplines, it remains the case that not as many faculty and students think about using the resources of the AHC as could. Thus, we aim to improve our connection to the UW curriculum by offering an **award for the best undergraduate research project based on material at the AHC**. The award is entirely funded by voluntary donations from staff and faculty at the American Heritage Center.

The AHC Award

Each spring semester the AHC awards a cash prize to the best undergraduate research paper or project based substantially on materials—manuscripts, archives, rare books, photos, maps, audio, film and video, etc.—at the American Heritage Center. In order to encourage a diverse group of applicants, projects in any form—research paper, creative writing, individual or group exhibits or web sites, art, etc.—will be considered, as long as they are created for academic credit (i.e., they must be academic in nature) and are based substantially on research done at the AHC.

Every faculty member from every University of Wyoming department is eligible to submit, on behalf of their students, two projects each semester. Students are welcome to initiate application so long as their submission is accompanied by a letter from a faculty member. Submission will consist of a copy of the product, or an active link to it, and a cover memo by the faculty member which can be in electronic form. Submission signifies acceptance of the terms of submission, indicated below. Projects other than traditional research papers must include a process paper, which is a 500- to 1000-word explanation of which sources were used and how, and a summary of the process of creating and developing the project. **The deadline for project submission is March 29, 2024. Send materials to AHC Archivist Leslie Waggener at lwaggen2@uwyo.edu.**

¹ Based on ARL statistics.

A committee of AHC faculty and staff will select the winning project or projects. As a condition of accepting the award, the student(s) must agree to allow the AHC to utilize the project(s) for outreach efforts so that future applicants can benefit from their examples and so that the student(s) will be able to cite the website on their curriculum vitae. Papers or other projects that are or will be submitted for more formal publication will have this requirement waived, if necessary, to satisfy the terms of publication.

As a condition of accepting the award, the student(s) must agree to permit the AHC to publish their photo in its *Annual Report* to accompany reports of the award. The decision of the judging committee will be final, though with the student's permission excerpts from the committee's evaluation of the award-winning submission will be posted on the website along with the paper or project itself.

The award itself will be in the form of a certificate and a check for \$500.00. No restrictions are placed on the funds.

AHC's Mission

At the very core of our mission at the American Heritage Center is a commitment to the students of the University of Wyoming. Our work and careers are inspired in large part by the desire to support them in their educations and in their personal growth.

The mission of the American Heritage Center is to "support the administrative and educational curriculum of the University by enabling historical research and interpretation across a broad spectrum of interests and disciplines." The AHC's major collecting areas include Wyoming and the American West, the mining and petroleum industries, environment and natural resources, journalism, military history, transportation, the history of the book, and 20th century entertainment such as popular music, radio, television, and film. Our diverse collections support casual inquiry and international scholarship; ***most importantly, we play an active and creative role in the teaching and research missions of the University.***

To fulfill our mission, we provide outstanding curricular support at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, in an unusually wide variety of departments and colleges at the university, taking full advantage of the breadth of our collections. ***This includes providing personalized, connected instruction for students that introduces them to the intellectual, creative, and logistical challenges of doing original research with primary sources;*** and an unusually inviting atmosphere, welcoming students, scholars, and the public, and a service-oriented faculty and staff who are enthusiastic and dedicated to assisting researchers (novices and experts alike) access, understand, and appreciate our collections.

For more information about this award, please contact AHC Archivist Leslie Waggener at lwaggen2@uwyo.edu or 307-766-2557.