



# 2019 Commitment to Excellence

by Lisa S. Pearce Icenogle  
(AA, '79)

Charlotte Babcock

Casper native and long-time Casper College Alumni Association board member **Charlotte Babcock** (AA, '49) will receive the alumni association's 2019 Commitment to Excellence award.

Babcock, who graduated from Casper College in 1949, was on the original short-lived Casper College Alumni Association board in 1950. In 1989 the current alumni association was formed, and Babcock started on the association's board in 1990. She remained a board member for the next 26 years and served as the president from 1994-1996.

During her tenure as president for the alumni association, the college celebrated its 50th anniversary with a weekend event with much of the planning of those events spearheaded by Babcock and the alumni association. The celebration included a banquet that recognized 50 exemplary alumni, of which Babcock was one and the unveiling of the "Spirit of the Thunderbird" bronze statue by sculptor and Casper College alumnus **Chris Navarro** ('76). She was also involved in the association's \$100,000 gift pledge toward the renovation of the Gertrude Krampert Center for Theatre and Dance.

Babcock for many years was involved in the selection of alumni scholarship recipients. Upon the passing of her husband Robert in 2003, Babcock established the Babcock Memorial Alumni Academic Scholarship in his memory. Today the fully endowed scholarship is worth \$1500.

"Her willingness to serve the Casper College Alumni Association for 26 years is a testament to her enthusiasm to advance the cause of Casper College and education as a whole," said Paulann Doane, former executive director of the Casper College Foundation.

"Charlotte is a tireless crusader and advocate for higher education. Her unique perspective as one of Casper College's first graduates has been a great resource. Her ideas have helped the Casper College Alumni Association to become financially stable and kept the alumni community strong," Doane added.

Beyond Casper College, Babcock has been president for a number of other organizations including the American Legion, the PTA at East Junior High School (now Casper Classical Academy), Friends of the Library, and Wyoming Writers, Inc. In addition, Babcock was a member of the PTA of Willard Elementary; a charter member, historian, and for 13 years choir director at St. Patrick's Catholic Church; a founding member and president of the Bishop's Guild of Casper; a member of WyoPoets; and a volunteer for The Nicolaysen Art Museum's gift shop. Babcock was also instrumental in the creation of the large historical plaques detailing the history of the Hotel Townsend that hang in the Townsend Justice Center.

After her two daughters were in the school system Babcock spent 26 years as a teacher, "... and a lot of it was substituting, ... I had a kindergarten, a Monday kindergarten, and I worked in special ed. I had a second-grade class, I had a sixth-grade class, and mostly substituted at Pineview School," she said. During the 1970's Babcock owned Charlotte's Flowers which was located in the Hilltop Shopping Center.

Throughout all of this, Babcock became a published author writing feature articles for the Casper Star-Tribune; a book on the 25th anniversary of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, "The Saint Patrick's Story;" a book on early Casper, "Shot Down! Capital Crimes of Casper;" and most recently a collection of her poems titled "The Meadowlark's Song... and More." Her works have appeared in the books

"Woven on the Wind," "Crazy Woman Creek," "Windsingers," "Word Weavers," "Wyoming Writing," and "Westering." Her column, "According to Charlotte" is a regular feature of the Casper College Alumni Association's magazine Footprints. Babcock is adept in many genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature.

Babcock has been recognized by Wyoming Writers, Inc. with the Emmie Mygatt Award for outstanding service to the organization and, following the publication of "Shot Down!," their Milestone Award for her ongoing achievement in her writing career. In 2000, the Wyoming State Historical Society awarded "Shot Down" with its History Book of the Year award. In 2001 Babcock was recognized as a "renowned author, freelance writer, and editor" by the City of Casper and the American Association of University Women. "The Meadowlark's Song ... and More," was identified as an award-winning publication by the Wyoming State Historical Society.

Babcock has been working on a sequel to "Shot Down!" that will delve into Casper's notorious Sandbar.

The Commitment to Excellence award was established by the Casper College Alumni Association in 1991 to honor those who have given exemplary service to and have made a significant difference in the growth and development of Casper College.



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Paulann Doane

by Linda Nix

Paulann Tanner Doane's many accomplishments as executive director of the Casper College Foundation have earned her the 2019 Commitment to Excellence Award bestowed by the board of the Casper College Alumni Association. John Jorgensen, president of the Casper College Foundation Board of Directors, said, "When Paul Hallock announced his coming retirement in 2010, we were certain the Casper College Foundation was in for some difficult times. How could we ever replace his 18 years of success at the foundation? It was our amazing good fortune to have Paulann Doane appear on our doorstep. In her almost eight years at Casper College Paulann literally brought us into the 21st century with a new donor database installed, annual reports to donors, and assembly of a very talented and dedicated team."

As a Casper native with 16 years of community college fundraising experience in Colorado, Doane was uniquely qualified. Upon taking the helm of the already thriving foundation, Doane took on the task of making a great organization even better. Doane prioritized accountability to all foundation donors, beginning with the adoption and implementation of a contact, donor, and gift management system that would eventually interface seamlessly with the financial management of the foundation's assets. In addition, she embraced with open arms the opportunity to work with an alumni association, an aspect that was missing from her earlier positions.

Doane earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Arts degree from the American University in Washington, D.C. Before moving to Casper, she headed up the Red Rocks Community College Foundation in Lakewood, Colorado, and before that the Aims Community College Foundation

in Greeley, Colorado. Earlier in her career, she served in various roles at the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Doane is known especially for her focus on the foundation's mission of support for students. Under her leadership, the institution developed an expanded role for volunteers to help review scholarship applications. Doane said, "There is no more powerful way for donors and volunteers to appreciate the impact scholarships have on the lives of students than through reading a student's own words about his or her challenges and aspirations." Nurturing connections between donors, students, and the institution informed Doane's priorities, and during her tenure, the foundation awarded \$7.5 million in scholarships and gave another \$21.9 million of support to Casper College.

The foundation's six employees can attest to the success of Doane's goal of making the foundation office the best place to work on campus. Denise Bressler, the CFO for the foundation pointed to the numbers as a measure of Doane's success. "Under Paulann's leadership, foundation assets increased by \$44.5 million, with 91 new funds added, 46 of which are endowed. Seventeen of those new funds were from gifts of over \$100,000," she said. Jorgensen noted, "Paulann arrived just in time to complete the largest capital campaign in our history and has overseen an era of unprecedented growth in the assets of the foundation and in our ability to assist the college in so many ways. We were blessed to have her leadership all these years." Doane headed the "Vision: Campus: Community" fundraising campaign providing the final funding for five new buildings on the Casper College campus, including the Walter H. Nolte Gateway Center, the Residence Hall, the Early

Childhood Learning Center, the Casper College Student Union and University of Wyoming at Casper Building, and the Music Building.

The expansion of foundation staff facilitated the establishment of an internal giving campaign and added campus-wide and community activities. The T-Bird Trek, coming up on its fifth year, attracts around 500 participants, volunteers, and spectators to campus for a healthy and fun family event. The annual donor recognition luncheon began in 2018 as a way to connect donors and students over a meal, while the foundation sponsored all-campus School's Out BBQ, which takes place at the end of the academic year, allows faculty, staff, and students to mingle at a picnic.

Doane was a prime mover in the welcoming of the iconic "Essence of Rex" statue to campus. Working with benefactor Marialyce Tobin to develop the concept and engage the celebrated artist **Chris Navarro** ('76) to create the piece, Doane oversaw the commissioning and dedication of the statue with suitable celebration and fanfare. The community was introduced to the statue when it appeared in the 2014 Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo Parade, winning the prize for best float. Doane quipped, "It's really not fair to win best float with a \$250,000 bronze statue, but it was a very fun way to introduce it to the entire community."

Doane would say it's the little things that make a difference. Under her guidance, donors now regularly receive thank-you letters from students. She observed, "The best thing about this job, throughout all these years, is we get to give away hope." In 2017, Red Rocks Community College Foundation honored Doane's 10 years of service to RRCC with a scholarship in her name. It's a fitting tribute to a woman who's made a career of granting hope.