

Spirit of Dakota Selection Commission

Tona Rozum, Mitchell, Chair
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Jean Hunhoff, Yankton
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Julie M Johnson, Aberdeen
Suzette Kirby, Sioux Falls
Jacque Sly, Rapid City
Marsha Sumpter, Kadoka
Ginger Thomson, Brookings



The nine foot bronze sculpture “Spirit of Dakota” which stands at the entrance of the Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center, is the source for the state-wide Spirit of Dakota Award. Dale Claude Lamphere, nationally recognized sculptor and artist, is the creator. This sculpture of a pioneer woman balanced against the wind was unveiled and dedicated in October 1987 by the citizens of Huron. The “Spirit of Dakota Award” is Huron’s unique gift to the women of South Dakota.

Spirit of Dakota Award Event

- **Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center**
(Room Block \$119.99 + tax - Released Sept. 20)
- **Saturday, October 4, 2025**
Afternoon Tea
Art Show & Social
Banquet & Award Presentation
- **Nominations Close August 1**
- **Nomination forms may be obtained from:**

www.spiritofdakota.org

or

Huron Area Chamber of
Commerce
1725 Dakota Avenue South
Huron, SD 57350
1-800-487-6673



Spirit of Dakota Award Society
PO Box 280
Huron, SD 57350

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Spirit of Dakota Award Celebrating Our 39th Year



*South Dakota's
Premier Woman's Award*

Established October 1987

Spirit of Dakota

Statement of Purpose & Criteria

The Spirit of Dakota Award is an annual honor which is bestowed each fall at a state-wide event at the Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center. The Spirit of Dakota award is given to:

- **An outstanding South Dakota woman who has demonstrated leadership qualities and has been successful and admired in her community or state.**
- **A woman with roots deep in Dakota whose courage and strength of character have helped develop her family and community.**
- **A woman who has represented social, cultural, and educational advancement for others.**

This award is not Mother of the Year, nor Teacher of the Year, nor categorized but rather a recognition of those outstanding women who have been the symbols of all that we are proud of in our Prairie Women.

The nominee does not need to be a native of South Dakota, but must be a living resident of the state.

South Dakota's Premier Woman's Award



This prestigious Spirit of Dakota award plaque is a precious piece of art; each individually created by renowned sculptor, Dale Claude Lamphere, and treasured by each honoree. A one-foot bronze oval is graced with the pioneer woman sculpted upon its facade. To further illuminate the award, the bronze oval is mounted on smokey black lucite which is etched with the award inscription. The final element of the honor is an 18 x 20 burnished gold wooden frame which securely holds the cherished woman.

Spirit of Dakota Distinguished Honorees

1987 - Mrs. Winifred Lorentson*	Miller
1988 - Dr. Jeanie K. Sherman*	Madison
1989 - Florence Bruhn*	Watertown
1990 - Jeanette Lusk*	Huron
1991 - Dorothy (D.J.) Cline*	Brookings
1992 - No Award Presentation	
1993 - Ruth Ziolkowski*	Custer
1994 - Sylvia Henkin*	Sioux Falls
1995 - Irene Fisher Coon	Sioux Falls
1996 - Hildreth Twostars Venegas	Sisseton
1997 - Lorraine Huntimer*	Oldham
1998 - Mary Lou Tripp	Belle Fourche
1999 - Marsha Sumpter	Philip
2000 - Donna Schipke*	Newell
2001 - Phyllis White Eyes DeCory	Rapid City
2002 - Virginia Kiel Lardinois*	Huron
2003 - Patricia Fawcett	Ree Heights
2004 - Alice Kundert*	Mound City
2005 - No Award Presentation	
2006 - Janice Manolis	Huron
2007 - June James	Hazel
2008 - Elaine Doll-Dunn	Spearfish
2009 - Julie Garreau	Eagle Butte
2010 - Dorothy Kellogg*	Watertown
2011 - Millie Humphrey	Whitewood
2012 - Mary J. Milroy, MD	Yankton
2013 - Patricia Baird	Custer
2014 - Theresa Stehly	Sioux Falls
2015 - Mary Alice Woster Haug	Brookings
2016 - Susan DeLaney-Kary	Parmelee
2017 - Jean Wilkinson*	De Smet
2018 - Beverly Stabber Warne	Rapid City
2019 - Jo Vitek	Watertown
2020 - No Award Presentation	
2021 - Angela Ehlers	Presho
2022 - No Award Presentation	
2023 - Julie Bell	Brookings
2024 - LaVonne Gaspar	Sioux Falls

* Deceased