



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

American Heritage Center

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER AWARD for GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH USING PRIMARY SOURCES

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

Amount: \$500.

Eligibility: UW graduate students in any discipline; research must be for course credit.

Deadline: 17 May 2025.

The AHC Award

Each spring semester the AHC awards a cash prize to the best graduate student 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, podcasts, websites, 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, one project each semester. Students are welcome to initiate an application so long as their submission is accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Submission will consist of a copy of the project, or an active link to it, and a cover memo by the faculty member which can be in electronic form. 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.

Submission signifies acceptance of the terms of submission, indicated below. **The deadline for nomination is May 17, 2025. Send materials to AHC Archivist Leslie Waggener at lwaggen2@uwyo.edu.**

A committee of AHC faculty and staff will select the winning project(s). As a condition of accepting the award, the student(s) must agree to allow the AHC to utilize the paper for outreach efforts so that future applicants can benefit from their examples. 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.

The winner of the award will receive \$500. 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.