

## THE AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER AWARD FOR GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH USING PRIMARY SOURCES

### Award Overview

**Amount:** \$500

**Deadline:** May 17, 2026

**Eligibility:** University of Wyoming graduate students in any discipline

**Requirement:** Research must be for academic credit and substantially based on AHC materials

**Contact:** Dr. Mary Beth Brown, AHC Toppan Rare Book Curator - [Mary.Brown@uwyo.edu](mailto:Mary.Brown@uwyo.edu)

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### About the Award

The American Heritage Center awards an annual cash prize to recognize excellence in graduate student research using primary sources from our collections. This award encourages innovative scholarship across all disciplines while highlighting the diverse materials available at the AHC.

**What qualifies:** Projects in any format—research papers, creative writing, exhibits, podcasts, websites, digital projects, art installations, etc.—that meet two criteria:

- Created for academic credit.
- Based substantially on research using AHC materials (manuscripts, archives, rare books, photographs, maps, audio recordings, film, video, etc.).

### How to Apply

#### Submission Process:

- Students may self-nominate OR faculty may nominate students.
- Each faculty member may submit one project per year.
- All submissions must include a faculty letter of recommendation.

#### Required Materials:

- The completed project (or active link for digital projects).
- Faculty recommendation letter (electronic format acceptable).
- Process paper (for non-traditional research papers only): 500-1000 words explaining which AHC sources were used, how they contributed to the project, and your research and creative process.

**Submission:** Email all materials to Dr. Mary Beth Brown at [Mary.Brown@uwyo.edu](mailto:Mary.Brown@uwyo.edu) by **May 17, 2026**.

### Selection and Award Terms

A committee of AHC faculty and staff will evaluate submissions based on quality of research, innovative use of primary sources, and overall excellence.

**Award Conditions:**

- Winner receives \$500 with no restrictions on use.
- Student agrees to allow AHC to use the project for educational outreach (this requirement may be waived for projects intended for formal publication).
- Winner will be announced in June 2026.

**About the American Heritage Center**

The AHC's mission is to support University of Wyoming students and faculty through our diverse research collections spanning Wyoming and the American West, mining and petroleum industries, environmental history, journalism, military history, transportation, book history, and 20th-century entertainment.

We provide personalized research instruction and maintain a welcoming environment where students learn the intellectual and practical skills of working with primary sources—from handling historical documents to developing original research questions.