

## LOUISE POUND-GEORGE HOWARD DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD NOMINEES

April 28, 2026

The Louise Pound-George Howard Distinguished Career Award, established in 1990, recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the University of Nebraska. The individual's contribution may have been made through teaching, research, public service, administration, or a combination of these factors and reflects a long-standing commitment to the University.

### **BETH THEISS-MORSE**

Dr. Theiss-Morse's career at UNL has been marked by scholarly excellence, impactful teaching, and genuine service. Dr. Theiss-Morse joined the faculty at UNL in 1988 and has since been a stalwart of the Department of Political Science and a key figure in the discipline. She also has led the College of Arts and Sciences and contributed countless hours of service to this institution.

The quality of Dr. Theiss-Morse's research is evident. She has received five National Science Foundation Grants, won four research awards from two different research sections of the American Political Science Association, and has been an invited speaker at some of the most prestigious universities and research symposia around the globe. The discipline has benefited tremendously from her scholarship, and although she will retire in May 2026, she has two additional projects in the works. I am confident she will continue to shape political science research for many years.

In addition to leading the discipline in its study of democracy, Dr. Theiss-Morse has been a mentor and transformative teacher for generations of students. Students at all levels, from our first-year undergraduate students to our advanced Ph.D. students, appreciate the opportunity to learn from Dr. Theiss-Morse. She challenges them to think critically about core concepts in democracy, to apply rigorous methods to understand political phenomena, and to communicate their scholarly findings broadly. It is no surprise, then, that she won a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, or that her textbook, *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, co-authored with Michael W. Wagner, continues to be well received and adopted in political science departments throughout the country.

Dr. Theiss-Morse's approach to teaching and mentoring, particularly her commitment to her students and advisees, is also apparent in her service to the Department of Political Science, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Nebraska. Dr. Theiss-Morse has served in key leadership roles, including, but not limited to, Chair of the Department of Political Science, Associate Dean of Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Chair of the University's Institutional Review Board, and a member of both the Academic Planning Committee and the Faculty Senate, among many other roles.

When I asked her recently why she pursued these leadership and service roles, her answer was both simple and genuine: to help.

### **DAVID WISHART**

Emeritus Professor Wishart began his career at UNL as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography in 1974. During his 50 years at UNL he rose through the ranks to become a full professor and served as chair of the Department of Anthropology and Geography from 2002-2008; was a Foreign Expert, for the Guangzhou English Language Center, Zhongshan University, China, from 1986-1987; Visiting Lecturer, University of Waikato, New Zealand, September-October, 1996. Dr. Wishart made impactful contributions in scholarship, teaching, and administration. He co-authored more than thirty articles, five monographs, a textbook, and a major atlas. A number of these works have received critical praise. *An Unspeakable Sadness: The*

*Dispossession of the Nebraska Indians* received a Best Book prize from a national society and was the basis for a Pulitzer nomination. *The Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild* was placed on a "Best of the Best" list by the American Association of University Publishers. Dr. Wishart edited the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, which has been recognized on several occasions. The nonprofit Nebraska Center for the Book recognized Dr. Wishart with their "Best Reference Book" award on two occasions, once for *Atlas of the Great Plains* and, separately for *Great Plains Indians*. As a researcher, Dr. Wishart's scholarship has placed a spotlight on Nebraska and the Great Plains; in fact, he is the spotlighted Great Plains regional scholar in Richard L. Nostrand's *The Making of America's Culture Regions*.

Over his career, Dr. Wishart received five research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, three grants from the Nebraska Humanities Council, received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and numerous other national and state grants and fellowships.

Dr. Wishart has worked with the Nebraska State Historical Society in various capacities including, but not limited to, diligently researching the archives, assisting former students-now staff with professional development, and collaborating with various projects. For years, he served as a Society board member and as a consulting scholar in documentaries on Nebraska Educational Telecommunications' (NET) PBS station. For thousands of UNL undergraduate and graduate students, it has been both a great honor and pleasure to take historical geography of Nebraska classes with and be mentored to conduct such research by Dr. Wishart.

Dr. Wishart has been an outstanding mentor to majors, minors, masters and doctoral students in the UNL Geography Program, not to mention undergraduate and graduate students and faculty in other disciplines. He delivered service, drive, perspective, professionalism, and integrity to any project. He was student-focused and had an incredible work ethic. He seemingly never tired of helping students, serving the program, creating opportunities for advisees, and maximizing learning. He regularly supported junior peers, even from other institutions to help them advance in their career, and he did this for his former students and others as well. Many of his former graduate students are teaching in institutions across the country and throughout the world. During his career, Dr. Wishart successfully established formal, informal, or quasi formal channels for providing support to students, advisees, and junior faculty. He received the University of Nebraska Distinguished Teaching Award and received six UNL Parent Association Awards for his teaching.