A Letter from the General Manager: Chadra Kazmierczak

Dear UW Alumni:

It was encouraging to see so many of you attend the Zoom close of our fiscal year on May 18. I am grateful for your continued support and the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated stewardeds of this important mission. I hope you and your families are maintaining your mental and physical well-being as we navigate these unprecedented times.

It’s been a busy spring at Wyoming Public Media. We’ve been responding to the current demand for information and news, providing resources and support to at-risk communities, and shining a light on the efforts of our frontline staff. The Pew Charitable Trusts recently reported that nonprofit giving in the first quarter of 2020 was up 41.5 percent compared to the same week last year. That $480 million is encouraging news for Wyoming nonprofits, especially as a GlobalGiving survey found that 83 percent of donors are continuing to support their favorite causes online.

Wyoming Public Media is a proud part of the national network of public radio stations. On April 24, we hosted a special Facebook Live Q&A with Cooper McKim, the founder of the Wyoming History Initiative and the Wyoming Public Media podcast, Around the Fire. Cooper shared stories from Wyoming’s past and present and answered questions on Facebook, Twitter, and email. The program was viewed over 393 times, indicating the high demand for such programming.

There’s a compelling story in the news today about the Peabody Awards. According to the article in The Out Crowd, the Peabody Awards were established in 1940 partly because the Pulitzer Prizes wouldn’t give out awards to this newfangled medium called radio. That was an honor for the founders of the Peabody Awards. The Award for Excellence in Radio, the industry’s first and most prestigious award, was established in 1961. According to the article, this year’s Peabody Awards featured a new category called “Podcast Category.” This is a significant step forward for public radio. Public radio has always been about storytelling, and podcasts are a natural extension of that tradition. The Peabody Awards reflect this shift, and we are proud to be a part of it.

In other news, Wyoming Public Media joined nearly 200 other radio stations across the country in a virtual presentation of the 2020 Peabody Awards. The Peabody Awards are the most prestigious awards in broadcast journalism. Fun fact: the Peabody Awards were established in 1940 partly because the Pulitzer Prizes wouldn’t give out awards to this newfangled medium called radio.” The Award for Excellence in Radio, the industry’s first and most prestigious award, was established in 1961. According to the article, this year’s Peabody Awards featured a new category called “Podcast Category.” This is a significant step forward for public radio. Public radio has always been about storytelling, and podcasts are a natural extension of that tradition. The Peabody Awards reflect this shift, and we are proud to be a part of it.

As Wyoming Public Media looks toward the future, we are excited to continue to build on our partnerships with community organizations and businesses. Thanks to our new and renewing underwriters! We want to hear from you! What did you think of this newsletter? Let us know! Please take our survey.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the General Manager’s Newsletter. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me via email at dburner@uwyo.edu. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of the Wyoming Public Media family.

Chadra Kazmierczak
General Manager