

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY



www.wisconsincommunitymedia.com

Supporting community expression through media since 1998.

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The Most Reverend John Charles Wester
Bishop of Salt Lake City
Chairman
USCCB Communications Committee
27 C Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Dear Bishop Wester,

It is my pleasure to inform you that Wisconsin Community Media has chosen you to receive our 2014 "Friend of Access" Award because of the invaluable support you have invested in the future of community television by working for the passage of the Community Access Preservation Act. Executive Director Bunnie Reidel of American Community Television will also receive the award this year.

The award reads, "In recognition of his work to preserve the true democratic voice of the community – Public, Education, and Government Access Television."

Passage of the CAP Act is of great importance to community television centers in Wisconsin. When state franchise legislation passed here in 2007, nearly 30 public, education, and government access stations lost a significant amount of funding. The *public* access stations have suffered the most. West Allis Community Media Center, one of the most active in the nation, has closed. WYOU in Madison has barely survived by going to an all-volunteer staff and finding a new, much smaller home in the library. The Eau Claire station lost nearly half of its funding. Wausau's center was closed only to reopen with a fraction of the funding. Milwaukee's public access center has only a few years left before funding runs out.

So when I say your willingness to stand front and center and push for the CAP Act in the halls of the Capitol is appreciated, believe me, I truly, truly mean it. According to Bunnie, your investment in time and resources has made all the difference. She wrote, "I honestly don't know what I'd be doing now without them."

Thank you.

WCM will present this award to you or your representative at our Best of the Midwest Video Fest Show being held during our annual Spring Conference on Friday, April 25 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. We invite you and your guests to the Exhibitor Reception beginning at 5:30 pm, the Banquet at 6:30 pm and, of course, the Show that follows!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Cardona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Cardona
Executive Director