
12 March 2020

Keyes-Orr Award Committee 2020

Keith Young, Jerry Baker, Dale Clark,
Brennan Dolan, Fred Gee, and Russ Baldner

Dear Committee,

We enthusiastically submit this letter of nomination in recognition of Chérie Haury-Artz for this year's Iowa Archeological Society Keyes-Orr Award.

Chérie began her archaeology career in Iowa in 1989 as a part-time adjunct faculty member at Central College teaching courses on archaeology and Indians of North America. She has been employed at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) as an archaeology technician, educator, and faunal analyst since 1990. Since 2015, Chérie has volunteered to serve on the Iowa Archeological Society (IAS) Board of Directors, where she exemplifies active participation and thoughtful insight. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Plains Anthropological Society, where she is active in promoting public outreach and fostering student and Native American participation.

Building sustainability for the archaeological profession and stewardship by engaging the public should be one of the top priorities for every archaeologist. Without public support, we lose archaeological sites; laws that protect cultural resources; and an actively engaged citizenry interested in learning about archaeology, cultural resources, and diverse cultures. Chérie's contributions to this effort are immeasurable. She has served as the IAS certification program coordinator since 2009, training and providing opportunities for avocationalists to build field and laboratory skills. As an OSA employee, Chérie travels across the state to participate in dozens of events every year, which reach hundreds of members of the public. Last fiscal year alone, Chérie reached nearly 2000 participants at 20 different events in 12 counties.

As an hourly employee, Chérie only gets paid when funding is available. Even when it is not, she is one of the first to step up to selflessly volunteer her time and expertise. She uses much of her own time and resources to annually develop and teach weeks-long courses for College for Kids and Senior College, thus demonstrating her willingness and commitment to work with any ages. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Chérie is one of Iowa's foremost communicators of archaeological knowledge. She engages any audience with ease, whether it is a bustling group of school children, a library conference room full of the interested public, or her professional colleagues.

Most importantly, her willingness and skill set in regards to working with youth should not be overlooked. Many archaeologists are intimidated by this kind of work! However, research in conservation shows that adults who practice environmentally responsible behavior most often

had a significant life experience as a child -- with a strong mentor -- that influenced these ethics in their adult life. Chérie's work to inspire youth to respect and appreciate archaeology and culture very likely influences future generations of adults with positive attitudes and ethics toward the stewardship and preservation of cultural resources.

We reached out to a few others to support Chérie's nomination for this award and received several enthusiastic testimonials of her contributions to Iowa archaeology and working with the public. You'll see that common themes emphasize Chérie's ability to connect with avocational archaeologists and the interested public, her enduring knowledge of archaeology in Iowa, and her commitment to volunteerism and professionalism.

- 1. The Meskwaki Annual PowWow takes place every August and includes a temporary museum called the Exhibit Tent. The function of the Exhibit Tent is to display artifacts and craftwork and to provide education and outreach through interpretive panels and engaging with visitors and the Tribal community. Manned by the Tribe's Museum staff and volunteers who are happy to talk to visitors in open dialogue about the culture of the Tribe and history in general, it's a unique feature among tribal powwows across the country. The Exhibit Tent concept has been around since 1913, but over a decade ago OSA was invited to be part of the Exhibit Tent in order to promote OSA programming and also to promote the visibility of the positive relationship between the Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa. This was a move that initially stunned many other Indian Tribes who do not have such cordial relationships with their own state archaeologist offices. The mutually beneficial partnership not only supported the mission of the Exhibit Tent but also supported the OSA goal of bringing archaeology to Iowa communities in ways that encourage the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of Iowa's archaeological past.*

The number of visitors to the Exhibit Tent and the OSA booth exceeds hundreds of people each day of the powwow. We visit with people from Mongolia, Turkey, Germany, Thailand, Russia, Jamaica, Scotland, South Africa, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Guadalajara, and from so many other places and cultures from around the world that it's impossible to list them all. We visit people who are from the U.S., from different states, from other Tribes, from Iowa, from our Tribe, and neighbors who are from just down the road.

Over the years, many good and knowledgeable OSA staff members have manned the booth and presented the archaeological timeline display, played traditional toys and games and talked to visitors about pre-historic and historic archaeology and general Iowa history. One constant OSA contributor has been Chérie Haury-Artz. Always pleasant, always helpful, always ready to engage with any visitor, always ready to listen to any story, always ready to play a game outside with the kids ... no matter the heat index of the day in early August in Iowa. She has bridged great divides and brought people together by doing the extraordinary: showing up, being present, listening, and sharing experiences. We trust her with our tribal history, and we trust her knowledge of

our shared heritage. Even today, this is a rare accomplishment that few archaeologists outside of Iowa can say they've achieved with their neighboring Tribes.

As an archaeologist, Chérie is a true asset to all the citizens of Iowa. She is a fine example of how successful archaeological programming can be for audiences from all walks of life and backgrounds. **The Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department is honored to co-nominate Chérie Haury-Artz for the Iowa Archaeological Society Keyes-Orr Award.** --Johnathan Buffalo, Director, Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department and Suzanne Buffalo, OSA Indian Advisory Council

2. *It is my sincere pleasure and honor to nominate Chérie Haury-Artz as recipient of the Charles Keyes - Ellison Orr Award in Iowa Archaeology. The award was established to recognize and celebrate the contributions to Iowa Archaeology that spring from cooperation between career and lay archaeologists.*

As Education Outreach Coordinator at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, I have been fortunate to work with and observe Chérie in action in numerous settings, from adult to school age programs to summer camps and family programs. I can heartily testify Chérie supersedes the goal of the award and furthers the cause of Iowa archaeology. Not only does she work with lay archaeologists, she is also a master of introducing Iowa archaeology to audiences of all ages and inspiring young learners to become future archaeologists.

From museum and classroom settings to bike rides (RAGBRAI) and canoe trips (Project AWARE) Chérie is not a 'one-size-fits-all' presenter, but continually adapts and updates programs to the audience and setting, always making archaeology hands on, exploratory, thought provoking and practically addictive. Her outreach programs demonstrate archaeological methods of research and align with Iowa's STEM and Science Learning Standards. From analyzing data from replica site excavation, challenging students to identify the artifacts and figure out what they were used for by their context, to perfecting atlatl throwing and flint knapping skills, Chérie's teaching methods embrace a variety of cognitive, interactive and physical learning styles.

*What really qualifies Chérie for the Keyes - Orrs award, however, is not just her breadth and depth of knowledge and innovative teaching skills but her gift for making **Iowa** archaeology alive and relevant to who we are today as Iowans. Case in point is a workshop titled "Tempest in the Iowa Great Lakes: Oneota Society in the time of Shakespeare" that Chérie developed as part of Lakeside's 'Shakespeare at the Lake' day for Spencer ninth grade students. The day's goal was to bring Shakespearian times to life through a variety of learning experiences during a daylong field visit to Lakeside Lab. As students compared and contrasted Oneota and Elizabethan artifacts, both time periods came alive, but more importantly what made the experience most meaningful and authentic was when students realized the namesake for their hometown's largest park - Oneota Park - came from peoples that co-existed with Shakespeare's time who lived in their own backyards.*

Generous with her knowledge, a true professional, scholar and innovative teacher, Chérie Haury-Artz is highly deserving of the Charles Keyes - Ellison Orr Award in Iowa Archaeology. We need more Cheries. --**Jane Shuttleworth, Education Coordinator, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory**

3. *One of the great pleasures of being a part of Whiterock Conservancy is the opportunity to meet great teachers that bring people together to learn about the history of the land we are caretakers of. Whiterock Conservancy annually hosts an Archeology workshop where people are encouraged to bring in artifacts to be inspected and assessed. Chérie is one of the facilitators and her skill, ability and expertise is appreciated by everyone that attends this event. She does a wonderful job of patiently assessing each artifact and answering questions that people have. She also is very diplomatic when she has to let people know that something they might have thought was significant or very old is in fact not old or significant. Chérie is also exceptional at bringing history alive for youth and adults by demonstrating practices that are now mostly forgotten. Her understanding of Iowa archaeology and her ability to make history understandable to the lay person is unequalled.* --**Dan Gudahl, Executive Director, Whiterock Conservancy**

4. *Chérie regularly collaborates with the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository (UIPR) staff, using her outstanding knowledge to help identify non-fossil specimens brought or sent in by members of the public, and using the UIPR comparative collections to assist identification. She has been an essential team-member of the UI Mobile Museum, helping UIPR develop content for two major exhibits that travelled to every county in Iowa. Chérie involves UIPR collections in her public outreach and education programs by showcasing Iowa's Ice Age fossils. She is unfailingly welcoming and patient with amateur archaeologists, sorting through buckets of rocks and bones and explaining how each one is or is not an artifact. Chérie makes the work of other staff easier with her enthusiasm for answering questions from the public about their finds, and is always willing to apply her expertise to mystery artifacts and other challenging inquiries. She is the immediate "go-to" person at OSA for many other university units needing the help of an archaeologist for any type of public outreach.* --**Dr. Tiffany Adrain, University of Iowa**

5. *I am writing in support of Chérie Haury Artz's nomination for the IAS Keyes-Orr award. Chérie has brought Iowa's prehistory to life for multiple classes of Iowa Master Naturalist (IMN) students. Although IMN is the program closest to my own heart, I know that we are but one of many beneficiaries of Chérie's talent for making archeology accessible and relevant to laypeople. I first met Chérie when I attended a program she gave for the participants in Project AWARE (Iowa's annual week-long river clean-up). Even after she had spent a long day on the river picking up other people's trash, Chérie was still bubbling with enthusiasm as she interpreted the riverscape though an archeological lens for the assembled paddlers.*

What makes Chérie such a sought-after speaker is not just her rock-solid scientific grounding and her superior communication skills. I look for these attributes when I recruit speakers for our program, of course, but what I am really on the look-out for are “sparklers”. A sparkler is someone so passionate about their area of research that it ignites a blaze of enthusiasm and curiosity in others. Chérie is a whole pack of sparklers! I recommend Chérie for your consideration with enthusiasm! --**Elisabeth Swain, Executive Director, Iowa Master Naturalists**

4. *Each year during our transition from Paleolithic to Neolithic times, I have Chérie visit Clear Creek Amana High School to talk with almost 200 freshmen about archaeology and the work she does daily. She is so knowledgeable and is wonderful with the students! She has a magnetic personality that keeps the kids engaged. She brings with her so many artifacts for the kids to experience history and allows them to explore her craft. She is awesome! If there is one main lesson kids remember most from my class, it is often what they learned from and experienced with Chérie.* --**Gretchen Muhlenbruck, Teacher, Clear Creek Amana Schools**

5. *I have known, and have worked with Chérie Haury-Artz since I came to Grant Wood AEA in 2005. Chérie has taught a course titled Archaeology of Iowa as a part of the annual College for Kids summer program, which I direct as part of my job duties. Through the College for Kids program Chérie has interacted with hundreds of middle school students over the years to share her knowledge of Iowa's prehistoric and historic heritage. The hands-on learning that Chérie provides through her classes at College for Kids is hard to beat!*

In reviewing the criteria for the Charles Keyes-Ellison Orr Award, I find Chérie to be highly worthy of this honor. Not only because of her dedication to the field. Or the fact that she meets the necessary award criteria. But from my perspective, it is because, in my observation, Chérie emulates Keyes and Orr with her ability to generate new enthusiasm and interest in Iowa archaeology. I proudly support Chérie Haury-Artz for this award. --**Susie Green, Student Programs Specialist, Grant Wood Area Education Agency**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Reetz, Joe Artz, Johnathan Buffalo, Suzanne Buffalo, Jane Shuttleworth, Dan Gudahl, Tiffany Adrain, Elisabeth Swain, Gretchen Muhlenbruck, Susie Green