



2019-2020 HISTORY AWARDS

DAVID DOUGLAS AWARD

DR. LARRY CEBULA



The **David Douglas Award** recognizes the significant contribution of an individual or an organization that informs or expands appreciation of Washington State history.

David Douglas Award



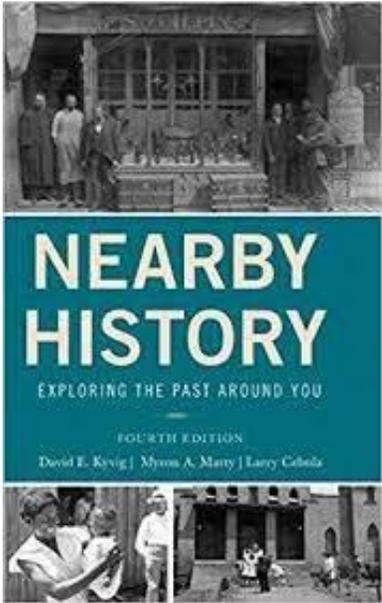
**The 2019-2020 David Douglas Award
is presented to Dr. Larry Cebula.**

Dr. Larry Cebula teaches at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. Professor Cebula's significant contributions toward the appreciation and understanding of our state's history are multi-faceted and imaginative.

As assistant director of the Washington State Digital Archives, he plays a central role in the ongoing work of the world's first built-from-the-ground-up digital archive. In addition to his personal work with the archives, Dr. Cebula involves history students from his classes at Eastern Washington University, who regularly become interns or employees at the archives.

As director of the Public History Program at Eastern Washington University, he has trained and mentored students who have gone on to hold positions in museums, national parks, preservation commissions, and other public programs across the state and the nation.

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Dr. Cebula has received national attention for his work in public history and as an educator. He is recognized around the country for his contribution to local history through digital media.

His blog *Northwest History: Explorations in Digital History in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond*, has received nearly 500,000 views, and has published over 600 posts since it was launched in 2006. In 2008, at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York, Cebula's *Northwest History* received a Cleopatra Award for "Best Individual Blog."

In 2012, Dr. Cebula launched the *Spokane Historical* website at Eastern Washington University as a tool to help mentor his graduate students. The website and accompanying app are dedicated to telling the history of Spokane and

the greater eastern Washington region through student-generated short stories. Students are encouraged to delve into lesser-known regional history, relying on primary source research, and with Dr. Cebula's guidance, they learn to craft their research into a story. *Spokane Historical* provides an inspiring training opportunity for writing about local history, a public platform to promote the work of students, and a model for the use of digital history at the local level. The *Spokane Historical* website and app have had more than 2 million views.

Dr. Cebula has collaborated with the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum, the Spokane Historic Preservation Office, and the Washington State Archives.

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Dr. Cebula has a popular social media presence, with an engaged Twitter following and Facebook Group called *Spokane History Researchers* which has more than 5,000 members. Dr. Cebula's outreach has also led to frequent, productive collaboration with public figures, fellow historians, and tribal elders. He serves as a well respected ambassador for history in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to his work with Eastern Washington University and the Washington State Archives, Dr. Cebula has researched and provided resources for museum exhibits at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (Spokane, Washington). With his guidance students have researched, designed, and led a walking tour of Spokane's historic ghost signs, as well as manufactured and installed interpretive signage for Overlook Park in Spokane's Browne's Addition.

Dr. Cebula's approachable style and commitment as a mentor to individuals interested in the field of public history set him apart. His ideas are fresh, and his commitment to regional public history and to education are deeply appreciated by members of the heritage community in Washington.

You can listen to a recent interview with Dr. Cebula on Washington State Historical Society's YouTube channel.