



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact NDCA at (701) 328-7590

**North Dakota Senator Carolyn Nelson selected by The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts and Women in Government (WIG),
as the Inaugural Recipient of the “Outstanding Woman State Legislator
Supporting the Arts” Award**

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) would like to congratulate Senator Carolyn Nelson and thank her for her support of the arts in North Dakota!

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Women in Government (WIG) recently announced that North Dakota Senator Carolyn Nelson is the first-ever recipient of the “Outstanding Woman State Legislator Supporting the Arts” award, created to recognize a woman state legislator for outstanding support of the arts in her state. The award will be presented at Women in Government’s national conference on November 8, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

Senator Nelson was nominated by Mary Schneider and Pamela K. Anderson of the North Dakota State House of Representatives, and selected from a pool of other female legislators. Nominees must demonstrate a significant contribution in support of the arts, evidence of promoting policies that support the arts, collaborate with cultural and education partners to support the arts, and promote the value and importance of the arts in public life.

In the public policy realm, Senator Nelson championed the arts as a leader in the local and state PTA, Board of Education, and throughout her 12-term legislative career. Among her many achievements and accomplishments at the state and local levels, she successfully fought for a State Historical Society in addition to the state archives, which allowed many nonprofits, particularly arts groups, a place for their historical records. With a degree in music education, Senator Nelson has integrated the arts into her family, political, professional, and community life. She was a leader for the 1976 Governor’s Musical Ambassadors trip to Norway and currently serves as a board member of the famed International Music Camp program which brings together young performance artists at the International Peace Gardens. She also co-founded the North Dakota Coalition for Public Education in 1980, where she promoted performance and hands-on participation of children of all ages in the arts. Her engagement and achievements are local, state, national and international in scope and have generated critical access, funding, and other resources for children, adults and community organizations.

The full press release by the John F. Kennedy Center is available at

<http://www.womeningovernment.org/press/john-f-kennedy-center-performing-arts-and-women-government-wig-select-north-dakota-senator>.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.