

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | November 1, 2019

ND State Hospital to host open house at museum to honor Superintendent Etherington and others who have helped preserve its history

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota State Hospital is hosting an open house on Friday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the museum on the grounds of the hospital to honor the historic preservation efforts made by staff over the years and to celebrate Superintendent Rosalie Etherington’s selection as the recipient of the 2019 *Excellence in Local History Award*. The North Dakota Historical Society announced the award at the Main Street ND Summit on Oct. 31 in Bismarck.

State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg will attend the open house and present the award in person to Etherington at 10:30 a.m., followed by brief comments. The award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for dedicating their time, talent and efforts to preserve, interpret, research, publish, promote or otherwise share knowledge and understanding of local history.

Etherington who was hired by the hospital in 1994 as a clinical psychologist, later becoming clinical director and then superintendent in 2015 has a keen interest in preserving the history of the hospital, which opened in 1885 before statehood, the patients who lived there, and the employees. She was instrumental in establishing the North Dakota State Hospital Museum, which opened on the grounds in 2010 in time for the hospital’s 125th anniversary. With like-minded individuals, Etherington located and reviewed records, and located, identified and documented artifacts on display in the museum; interviewed individuals about the hospital’s history; and supported the restoration of the hospital’s cemeteries, including documentation of individual graves and replacement of damaged grave markers.

The museum, which is located on the fourth floor of the Learning Resource Center building, will be open for viewing during the open house. She and other staff will be available to share information, answer questions about the collection, and guide interested visitors to the cemetery area. Refreshments will be served.

The museum is open by appointment. Interested individuals can call 701-253-3964. Information about the hospital’s history and the museum is also available online at www.ndshmuseum.org.

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