

# WISCONSIN COMMUNITY



www.wisconsincommunitymedia.com

Strong media centers. Strong communities.

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April 26, 2018

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## Executive Director

Mary Cardona  
(608) 215-5594  
exec@  
wisconsincommunitymedia.com

Dear Mary Ann,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Wisconsin Community Media Board of Directors has chosen you to receive the 2018 WCM Friend of Access Award in recognition of your longtime support of Eau Claire's community access television center. James Wyngaard of WSTO Stoughton and Al Reinhart from Algoma Community Television are also being honored this year.

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

For nearly 15 years you served on the Board of Directors of Eau Claire Public Access, only stepping down as President last November when the health needs of you and your husband required it. For more than 25 years, you have been an invaluable asset to what is now called Valley Media Works by volunteering your time and talent for countless productions, including the on-air auctions, the film festival, and high school graduations.

Your contagious enthusiasm has drawn many people to become volunteers themselves, including Aaron Rigby who began as a volunteer in 1998 and became the production manager in 2011. Another volunteer, Rick Wold, who was also an integral part of the station's success, became your husband.

In the nomination submitted by Valley Media Works, Heather Harkins wrote, "We would not be where we are today if we had not had their dedication, expertise, and generosity guiding us along the way. From lending gear and equipment of their own to providing a friendly sounding board for project brainstorming, the pair was always close at hand. Sadly, Rick passed away this January, but even through her grief Mary Ann has proved to be a true "friend of access" by asking for donations to be made to us in his memory in lieu of sending flowers. We are grateful to her many years of faithful service to not only our organization, but to the goals of public access."

WCM is extremely pleased to present you with this very well-deserved Friend of Access Award and give you state-wide recognition for your dedication to community television.

We invite you and a guest to the Best of the Midwest Media Fest Banquet and Show on Thursday, May 10 at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center where you will be honored with the 2018 Friend of Access Award. The exhibitors reception begins at 5:30 pm, the banquet at 6:30 pm and the awards presentation and show follows.

Please contact me to let me know who is coming by emailing or calling me by Friday, May 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Cardona". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "M" and "C".

Mary Cardona  
Executive Director

cc: WCM members