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Nebraska Press Association

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2019 Harpst Leadership Nebraska Award Announced at NPA Annual Convention Awards Luncheon, April 6, in Kearney

KEARNEY – When Don Harpst Jr. established The Leadership Nebraska Award in honor of his father, he must have had in mind a newspaper person precisely like this year’s recipient. Here is a woman who generously used her journalism skills for community leadership. **The 2019 recipient is LAURIE PFEIFER, retired managing editor with the Aurora News-Register.**

Her leadership roles included these projects:

- She helped expand the Aurora News-Register’s monthly supplement into a weekly section call *Ag Life*.
- For the annual Hamilton County Fair, she worked tirelessly to produce a 32-page special section highlighting achievements of 4-H and FFA kids.
- She mentored many young journalists over the years, inspiring them to take the extra steps necessary to find that additional source, take that timely and emotional photo, and create that dynamic layout.
- Spent hundreds of hours volunteering with the TeamMates youth mentoring program.

An excerpt from Laurie’s nomination reads: “Her work won the respect of local residents and public officials alike – and her coverage of Nebraska’s No. 1 industry – agriculture – won distinction for her newspaper.”

The Harpst Leadership Nebraska Award was awarded Saturday, April 6, 2019, at the Nebraska Press Association’s 145th Annual Convention Awards Luncheon at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Kearney, NE. Russ Pankonin, publisher of the Imperial Republican, presented the award. A stipend comes with this award.

We again salute Laurie Pfeifer.