



American Academy  
for Park & Recreation Administration

## 2020 Legends in Parks & Recreation

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### **Dr. Ted Cable, Kansas State University, Kansas**

Dr. Ted Cable may be most well-known for co-authored his textbook "Interpreting Cultural and Natural Resources," however, throughout his career he has published several other books and articles that have impacted the field of parks, recreation, and tourism. Over his 35+ year career at Kansas State University, Dr. Cable has displayed over and over his humble and caring approach to education and research that strives for benefit of others over his own personal reward.

Dr. Cable's reputation is known worldwide, and his services have been sought out by 20 different countries to help them with their natural and/or cultural interpretive planning efforts. He has assisted countless domestic entities with the development of interpretive plans, or interpretive signage, or consulting on interpretive and educational materials related to cultural and natural resources. He has taught thousands of students in interpretive methods while at Kansas State University and inspired likely just as many to want to find ways to protect our irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage.

Dr. Cable's passion, enthusiasm, deep wealth of knowledge, and perhaps most importantly, his jovial and fun-loving approach to education, has made a profound impact on our profession. His life experiences and vast knowledge of cultural and natural interpretation can benefit all those now practicing in our profession, and more importantly, can influence and educate innumerable future interpreters. This is why Dr. Cable is tremendously deserving of recognition through the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Legends Program.

**Richard Dolesh, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, NRPA (retired), Maryland**

"In a career spanning more than 40 years, Rich Dolesh has been an exemplary leader in the parks, recreation and conservation field at the local, state and national levels. For the past 20 years Rich has served in various positions at the National Recreation & Park Association, recently serving as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. As the Chief of Public Policy, Rich established NRPA as national leader in advocacy for legislation, policies and programs related to parks, recreation and conservation. While Congress recently passed the historic Great American Outdoors Act, which included full and permanent funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund, Dolesh's staunch advocacy contributed significantly to the passage of this monumental legislation ensuring urban parks and recreation issues were addressed in the process. The partnerships he forged with the National Association of State Park Directors and other conservation organizations were instrumental in the ultimate success of the LWCF victory. Rich's voice resonated on Capitol Hill as he and the NRPA Public Policy team successfully advocated for Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails and Safe Routes to School to ensure that bicycling and walking opportunities were included in federal surface transportation law.

Among Rich Dolesh's many accomplishments, his efforts in advancing the children and nature movement were profound. Rich rallied NRPA members in a campaign to reconnect children with nature and outdoor experiences as electronic devices were keeping kids indoors and inactive. Rich's advocacy helped move the introduction of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008, which was eventually expressed in the current federal education law called the Every Student Succeeds Act. He continues as a valuable resource for parks, recreation and conservation professionals as he continues to write articles, post blogs and be a staunch advocate for parks, recreation and environmental conservation. His lifetime of exemplary leadership was recognized by the Academy as he was presented the prestigious Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal at the 2019 Academy Banquet in Baltimore. Rich Dolesh has certainly distinguished himself as a Legend."

**Dr. Lynn Jamieson, Professor Emerita, Indiana University (retired), Indiana**

Lynn Jamieson is currently the President and Owner of Leisure Visions which is a recreation and tourism planning firm. She is the Professor Emerita with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism at Indiana University. She served as full professor at Indiana University from 2008 to 2015. Lynn served as Chair of the Department from 2001-2008 and again 2015-2017. Her professional academic experience is vast including Indiana University and California Polytechnic State University. Her professional experience includes working at Johnson County Park and Recreational District in Kansas, San Diego Park and Recreation, California and Corpus Christi Park and Recreation Department, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Lynn has served as the Secretary of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association, and on the Personnel Committee of the Texas Recreation and Park Society and has achievements as Professional Recreator for California Park and Recreation Society. Lynn was also the first female

chair of the Department of Recreation and Park Administration at Indiana University serving for a total of 9 years in the role as chair and 6 in the role as assistant chair. Lynn has been involved in 90 research presentation at numerous organizational meetings in the United States and 13 countries.

**Dr. Michal Anne Lord, Executive Director, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Texas**

Michal Anne Lord, PhD is the Executive Director of the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS). She is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and is state certified Therapeutic Recreation Professional. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of TRAPS, she taught for 13 years at Southwest Texas State University/Texas State University in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; and was the Division Coordinator of Recreation Administration. She also has worked in community recreation for over 40 years, starting her career with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Texas.

She is a past member of the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) Board of Trustees, past president of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society and the Therapeutic Recreation Branch of TRAPS. She has served on the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Texas; and has chaired the National Advisory Council of Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Michal Anne is a certified NRPA/AALR Accreditation Visitor and served on the NRPA Regional Council Task Force. She served on the National Certification Board, as well as served as its chair. She is a member of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; has chaired and serves on the Externship Committee.

Michal Anne received the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences *Terry Hershey Award for Excellence*; Fellow Award from the Texas Recreation & Park Society and the TR Professional of the Year Award from the TRAPS' TR Branch; the Fellow Award from the NRPA Southwest Regional Council, and National Therapeutic Recreation Society's Distinguished Service Award.

**Gina McCarthy, President & CEO, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York**

Gina McCarthy is an accomplished professional who has dedicated over three decades to public service and advocacy, working to protect our environment, link environmental policy with public health, promote environmental justice, address climate change and foster shared stewardship of our resources. She has developed cutting edge policy, worked with leaders at every level across the nation and the globe, and she continues to be a passionate, energetic environmental champion on many fronts. Currently the President and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Gina also led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation before serving as EPA Administrator from 2013-2017. Gina is also a Professor of Practice of Public Health and Chair of the Board of Advisors at the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Her love of parks and recreation is grounded in her Massachusetts roots where she grew up and served in various roles in local and state government including Undersecretary for Policy for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Deputy Secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Development. As Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, she raised the profile of state parks and the importance of connecting people to each other and to special places by creating the No Child Left Inside® initiative and launching The Great Park Pursuit (GPP) in 2006. When introduced, the GPP was an innovative, cutting-edge program that inspired families to explore state parks close to home while learning new activities such as fishing, camping and boating. Not only did she provide a creative platform for kids and kids at heart to explore the outdoors at a time when “nature deficit disorder” became a growing concern, but she introduced state parks to a new generation in Connecticut and in other states she inspired to adopt the GPP model. While any of her accomplishments alone would warrant Legends status, her commitment to connecting people to the land and resources is our reason to celebrate her as a Legend.

**Kathy J. Spangler, Executive Director, 2019 Commemoration American Evolution & former NRPA Director of Partnerships, Virginia**

Kathy Spangler’s tenure at the National Recreation and Park Association spanned twenty years and included numerous roles such as northeast regional director, American Park and Recreation Society staff liaison; health and wellness director; and founding director of national programs. Although Kathy had spent only ten years in community park and recreation service when joining the NRPA staff, she always approached her work at NRPA as the member inside. The establishment of significant external partnerships to enhance systems with evidenced based initiatives or to promote the benefits of parks and recreation; and her creative and innovative approaches to partnering with local park and recreation agencies of all sizes resulted in major initiatives ranging from multi-disciplinary research, public policy, best practices and awareness building for the profession as her greatest contributions to the field.

Innovation, growth, development and lasting impact are the key descriptors of Kathy Spangler’s contributions throughout her career in parks, recreation and human services field.