

University

of



Okoboji

Okoboji, Iowa 51955

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10.01.13

To whom it may concern -

The University of Okoboji was founded many years ago to be a leader in the community for raising funds for a "Jaws of Life," "Dickinson County Trails," "The Pearson Lakes Art Center," and many other projects in the Iowa Great Lakes area.

We are writing you today to recommend Seth Boyes for the Community Leadership Award and the Harrison "Skip" Weber Investigative Reporting Award. April 5, 2019, the phone rang at the Dickinson County News, the caller wanted to do what was right. Their grandparents had stolen items from the Abbie Gardner cabin 70 years ago and they wanted the one item that was still in the family to be returned home.

Having no clue what he was about to get into, Seth agreed to help. How hard can it be to return something to a museum? Who would have guessed it would take 4 years, countless hours of researching old newspaper archives, phone calls to the Iowa Historical Society, trying to find a living decedent of Abbie Gardner, leads, dead-ends. Then finally what every good story needs, a "Happy Ending."

As a journalist you have a responsibility to report the news. What Seth has done here goes above and beyond reporting. He took a personal interest in doing what is right, embracing the spirit of the University of Okoboji by taking a leadership roll in giving back to the community. He gave of his time and talent to make sure stolen property was returned to its rightful owner, accompanied by a five-part cliff hanger of a story!

Thank you for your time and consideration of these two awards that Seth & the Dickinson County News are more than deserving of.

Sincerely,

*Herman Richter*

Herman Richter

Director of Student Affairs

University of Okoboji

— Where fun in life is your degree —