

Executive Summary

Lake Red Rock Project, Rock Island District nominates Ms. Tracy Spry for the 2015 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. She has had an outstanding interpretive and outreach career, culminating into an impressive list of accomplishments in 2014. Throughout her 22 years, Ms. Spry has continually sought engaging and innovative interpretive experiences for project visitors, school groups and civic organizations. Tracy uses her appreciation for the natural world and all of its wonders to explain the Corps' three-fold mission at Lake Red Rock of Flood Risk Management, Recreation and Environmental Stewardship. This creative ability shines through during her programs and inspires others to a greater sense of knowledge and appreciation.

In 2014, Ms. Spry incorporated her passion for Red Rock's missions into a wonderful variety of programs and activities from paddling excursions to night hikes to geocaching. Tracy coordinated the development of Lake Red Rock's first ever Natural Playscape, and organized partnerships with Central College, private industry (3M Corporation and Vermeer Manufacturing) and the Red Rock Lake Association. Keeping up with new interpretive initiatives, she emphasized STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programming and coordinated a Teach-the-Teacher STEM workshop using Central College Professors and the new "outdoor classroom" Natural Playscape.

Tracy presented over 100 dynamic interpretive programs to over 2,900 participants and mentored a college intern to provide more than 50 programs to over 670 individuals in 2014. She coordinated a special school event the "37th Annual Outdoor Days" using partners from county, state and volunteer staff that attracted more than 400 students to the lake. In 2014, she presented more than 30 programs specific to water safety to over 800 participants. Ms. Spry manages the Red Rock Visitor Center with the same enthusiasm and continues to activate the facility with interesting programs and events. Tracy's ability to provide excellent interpretive services year-in and year-out is amazing, and 2014 demonstrated her ability to adapt and incorporate new ideas once again.

Ms. Spry's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been exemplary. She provides outstanding customer service to all she comes in contact with and is the face of Lake Red Rock to the citizens and visitors of the area. Tracy has served as the chair of the Rock Island District's Water Safety Team and is still a member today. Tracy's integrity, honesty and moral compass are truly an asset for Lake Red Rock.

"Tracy is exemplary in her performance as a Corps Interpreter. Highly innovative, she maintains the highest level of enthusiasm for and ability to communicate Lake Red Rock's missions." Lake Red Rock Operations Project Manager, Brett Call.

