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Mountain West Conference NEWS

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BARBARA BURKE NAMED RECIPIENT OF 2008 DR. ALBERT C. YATES AWARD

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Barbara Burke, former deputy athletics director and senior woman administrator at the University of Wyoming, has been named the recipient for the 2008 Dr. Albert C. Yates Distinguished Service Award.

The Dr. Albert C. Yates Award, named in honor of the former Colorado State University president, is bestowed upon an individual who has successfully supported, promoted and exemplified the ideals of the Mountain West Conference or a member institution. Burke is just the seventh recipient of the award, joining Linda Estes, former New Mexico senior woman administrator; Elaine Michaelis, former BYU head volleyball coach and women's athletics director; LaVell Edwards, former BYU head football coach; Rudy Davalos, former New Mexico athletics director; Dr. Larry Gerlach, former Utah faculty athletics representative and Marsha Smeltzer, former Colorado State senior woman administrator.

An active member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of America (NACDA) and National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA), Burke served the University of Wyoming as an athletics administrator for 10 years, including the past two as the deputy director of athletics and senior woman administrator. In that role, she helped to oversee strategic planning for the department, as well as the day-to-day operations of Wyoming's athletic program.

Burke, who recently accepted the position of Director of Athletics at Eastern Illinois University, served as Wyoming's representative on the transition team when the Mountain West Conference was formed in 1998 and was one of the original members of the MWC Joint Council. Throughout her tenure at Wyoming, she demonstrated her commitment to academic excellence and integrity in collegiate athletics by actively participating in a variety of MWC and NCAA committees, including the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball committee (2005-07) and the Mountain West Conference Championship committee (2004).

A native of Kalamazoo, Mich., Burke earned a bachelor of science degree from Western Michigan in 1980 and a master of education degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1984. She was a four-year member of both the softball and basketball teams at WMU (1976-80), leading the Broncos to the Women's College Softball World Series in 1980. She was inducted into the WMU Hall of Fame in 1988.