

## The James R. Carr Distinguished Service Award Lutheran Campus Ministry

### Background

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1983 after Jim Carr and Ruben Baerwald returned from a trip to Europe during which they experienced the vibrancy of the international Christian Student Movement. They were so excited about the learning they gained through international travel, and the international campus ministry relationships they developed, they proposed to the church's Standing Committee for Campus Ministry the creation of an award to be given annually to a campus ministry colleague, both to acknowledge distinguished service and to encourage travel abroad.

In time, their idea was approved and a cash gift of \$1,500 was added to help offset travel expenses for award recipients. Because the Distinguished Service Award included a stipend, it therefore also served as a monetary supplement for campus ministry professionals who, even then, were woefully underpaid. The award honored their curiosities *and* thanked them for outstanding service to the church through ministry on campus.



At the 1999 annual campus ministry conference, Jim Carr himself – then the ELCA's Executive Director for Campus Ministry – was presented the Distinguished Service Award during a banquet given in his honor. In addition to marking his own distinguished career of service to campus ministry, it also acknowledged his upcoming retirement scheduled for later that year, on the eve of All Saints' Day. The name of the award was changed to further honor him and has been known ever since as the James R. Carr Distinguished Service Award.

### Spirit of the Award

The kinds of campus ministers who exhibit the spirit of the James R. Carr Distinguished Service Award are those who demonstrate excellence in ministry, foster engagement with others, have an adventuresome enthusiasm for travel abroad, and exude a passion for integrating a wider worldview into their local ministries.

### **Recipients – Distinguished Service Award**

1983 Walt Johnson  
1984 Beth Platz  
1985 Curt Johnson  
1986 Ralph Rusley  
1987 Warren Jorenby  
1988 Ted Fritschel  
1989 Jerry Knoche  
1990 Fred Reisz  
1991 Armin Heidmann  
1992 Jeri Smith, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis  
1993 Don Ranstrom, University of California-Davis  
1994 John D. Kautz, University of Arizona  
1995 Gordon Ward, Jr., University of Colorado  
1996 Galen Hora, University of Minnesota-St. Paul  
1997 Tom Chittick, Harvard University  
1998 Larry Meyer, University of Nebraska  
1999 Jim Carr, ELCA Executive Director for Lutheran Campus Ministry

### **Recipients – James R. Carr Distinguished Service Award**

2000 Fred Fritz, Mankato State University  
2001 Tim Megorden, University of North Dakota  
2022 Lloyd Kittlaus, Northwestern University  
2003 Sandy Jacobs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
2004 Kathy Fick, University of North Dakota  
2005 Don Wisner, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
2006 Chris Heavner, Clemson University  
2007 Lou Flessner, Texas State University  
2008 Don Romsa, California State University-Fresno  
2009 Rick Bair, Cornell University  
2010 Mark Coulter, University of North Carolina  
2011 Alicia Anderson, Penn State University  
2012 Connie Winter-Eulberg, Colorado State University  
2013 Robert Chell, South Dakota State University  
2014 Brent Christensen, University of Wisconsin  
2015 Matthew Riegel, West Virginia University  
2016 Anne Morawski, University of New Mexico  
2017 Jim Norlie, Oregon State University