Ford’s Theatre Education Announces
2019-2020 Lincoln Teacher Leader Award Recipient: Lindsey Charron

Charron Exemplifies Dedication to Student Leadership and Oratory Development

Washington, D.C. – Ford’s Theatre Education selected California seventh- and eighth-grade teacher Lindsey Charron as recipient of the 2019-2020 Lincoln Teacher Leader Award. Charron is a Ford’s Theatre National Oratory Fellow in the master fellow cohort, a program started in 2011. National Oratory Fellows learn to use public speaking and performance skills, such as close reading of historical speeches, speech writing and performance, as strategies to support student learning in the classroom. Through the National Oratory Fellows program, grades 5-8 educators enliven history and English Language Arts learning, and deepen student understanding of great American orators, including Abraham Lincoln.

Lindsey Charron teaches eighth-grade United States history and seventh- and eighth-grade student leadership and government at Horace Ensign Intermediate School in Newport Beach, California. As the Lincoln Teacher Leader Award recipient, Charron is recognized for her work as an outstanding educator and teacher leader, and her contributions to the continued success of the National Oratory Fellows program. Charron is noted for her dedicated and thoughtful approach to developing leadership and oratory skills in her students, encouraging colleagues to utilize best practices and presenting and sharing about the National Oratory Fellows program at the education conferences at the state and national level.

Charron’s additional career highlights include being named a James Madison Fellow in 2013 as well as Ensign Intermediate School’s Teacher of the Year in 2013. After 15 years, Charron remains passionate about helping students understand how their lives connect to events from the past and enjoys using primary sources to do so.
“The Lincoln Teacher Leader Award recognizes the contributions of the award recipient to the field of education both locally in their school district and nationally,” said Ford's Theatre Associate Director for Arts Education Cynthia Gertsen. “Lindsey Charron is an incredible educator and teacher leader, who always gives the best of her creativity, compassion and intellect to her students. We are thrilled to offer her the award this year.”

On May 6 and 13, Lindsey Charron, along with 35 teachers from 16 states, met digitally in Zoom Classroom for an event marking the culmination of their year-long participation in the Ford’s National Oratory Fellows program. The program typically includes a weekend in D.C. where 36 teachers and 36 student delegates attend workshops, rehearse their original and historical speeches on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and ultimately perform on the Ford’s Theatre stage. This year, Ford’s Theatre Education experimented by putting the culminating retreat and performance online for participants, still celebrating the achievements of the group in this unprecedented time.

“Participating in Ford's Theatre's Oratory program provides me with the support I need to continually work to integrate oratory into my classes. I know that I can always turn to one of the other fellows to brainstorm ideas or get help if needed, said Teacher Leader Award recipient Lindsey Charron. "Being surrounded by other fellows who are as passionate as I am about making sure that students are provided with a platform and space to use their voice fuels me as an educator every day."

Read more about the virtual event here https://www.fords.org/for-teachers/programs/oratory/national-oratory-fellowship/.

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Schools and teachers interested in learning more about the National Oratory Fellows Program should visit www.fords.org/for-teachers/programs/oratory/national-oratory-fellowship or email education@fords.org.

Ford’s Theatre Society
The Ford’s Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer Frankie Hewitt, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford’s as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of Paul R. Tetreault as Director, critics and the theatregoing public have recognized Ford’s for the superior quality of its artistic
programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe, The Heavens Are Hung In Black, Liberty Smith, Necessary Sacrifices, The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org). In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Currently, under the leadership of Board Chairman Phebe N. Novakovic, Ford’s Theatre Society is advancing the unfinished work of Abraham Lincoln by creating a vibrant, accessible Ford’s Theatre campus that cultivates civic discourse, supports our nation’s educators and engages the community with our history.

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