

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Former Chief Justice to Receive the Bill Daniels Ethical Leadership Award**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Former Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kite will receive the Bill Daniels Ethical Leadership Award during the 2024 Governor's Business Forum in Laramie on November 14th.

### **Bill Daniels Ethical Leadership Award**



Created in 2017, the Bill Daniels Ethical Leadership Award recognizes Wyoming citizens who embody the ethical leadership principles exhibited by Bill Daniels, a cable television pioneer who started his professional career in Casper, Wyoming. The Bill Daniels Ethical Leadership Award is a joint venture between the Wyoming Business Alliance, the University of Wyoming College of Business, and the Daniels Fund. The recipient is selected for this prestigious award based on the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, and Viability.

Justice Marilyn Kite, who grew up in Laramie, has been selected for this distinction due to her commitment to public service and continued display of integrity. Her distinguished career included working for the Wyoming Attorney General, Holland & Hart law firm, and a long tenure on the Wyoming Supreme Court from 2000 to 2015. She was the first woman in Wyoming to serve as a Supreme Court Justice and was elected Chief Justice by her fellow justices, serving from 2010 to 2014. In that role, Kite advocated for improvements to court security, expansion of civics education, justice for indigent people, and creating opportunities for women to pursue interests in the law. Throughout her time serving the judicial system, Kite consistently displayed an ethical presence and performed her duties with honor.



“Justice Kite’s contributions to the Equality State are profound. She is a mentor and a leader to so many and has always carried herself with a high degree of character. That is exactly what this award is meant to elevate,” said Renny MacKay, President of the Wyoming Business Alliance and the Wyoming Heritage Foundation.

Kite serves as the Board Chair for the University of Wyoming College of Law Dean’s Advisory Board, where she played a key role in the renovation of the Alan K. Simpson Center for Clinical and Experiential Learning. She also helped establish the Wyoming Women’s Antelope Hunt and serves on the Hughes Charitable Foundation Board. Justice Kite currently serves on the Hughes Foundation Board which is involved in the Cheyenne Frontier Days™ project to reconstruct and relocate the Native American Indian Village on Frontier Park grounds, with the goal of highlighting the significant role of Native Americans in the event.

Justice Kite is an Emeritus Member and former Chair of the Advisory Board of the Haub School for Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. She previously served on the Board of Directors for Pilot Hill, Inc. during its inception, and was key in establishing an Access to Justice Commission in Wyoming. These are just a few examples of her extensive leadership and contributions.

“I am surprised, honored, and humbled to be selected for this award. I have been so fortunate to have grown up in Wyoming with so many leaders of integrity as role models. It is our collective history that guides us all and we need that guidance now more than ever,” said Justice Kite.

“Justice Kite’s lifelong commitment to public service and her unwavering ethical leadership have left an indelible mark on Wyoming. Her dedication to elevating civics education and empowering future generations makes her a truly deserving recipient of this award. We are honored to recognize her exceptional contributions to our state,” said Kent Noble, Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Faculty Fellow at the University of Wyoming College of Business.

“The Daniels Fund is proud to celebrate Justice Marilyn Kite’s selection. She embodies the integrity, fairness, commitment to the rule of law, and trust that Bill Daniels deeply valued. These are the very principles that uplift our communities and businesses and serve as a model for future generations of leaders,” remarked Leah Curtsinger, Daniels Fund Grants Program Officer for Wyoming.



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## **About the Wyoming Business Alliance/Wyoming Heritage Foundation**

The Wyoming Business Alliance/Wyoming Heritage Foundation serves as the state's premier business advocate and proponent with the mission of supporting public policy and legislation that enhances a sound business environment and promotes economic expansion. We advocate for a growing economy by standing for business interests, connecting business leaders from across Wyoming, and partnering with key business organizations and trade associations. For more information, visit [wyomingbusinessalliance.com](http://wyomingbusinessalliance.com).

## **About the Daniels Fund**

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative. For more information, visit [danielsfund.org](http://danielsfund.org)

## **About the University of Wyoming College of Business**

The University of Wyoming College of Business is committed to developing ethical, entrepreneurial, and innovative leaders who are prepared to make an impact in Wyoming and beyond. Offering a range of undergraduate and graduate programs, the College emphasizes experiential learning, collaboration with industry, and community engagement. Through initiatives like the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative and partnerships with local and national businesses, the College promotes a culture of integrity, leadership, and excellence. For more information, visit [uwyo.edu/business](http://uwyo.edu/business)