



Bruce Burkhart Legacy Award & Bruce Burkhart Spirit Award 2026

Introduction and Purpose

The Wyoming real estate community has been profoundly shaped by individuals who exemplify integrity, leadership, educational commitment, and professional excellence. Bruce Burkhart, a respected Wyoming real estate broker and educator, dedicated decades to advancing the profession through his ownership and operation of the Wyoming Real Estate Institute (from 2005 for approximately 25 years), where he trained countless agents and brokers, fostered mentorship, and upheld the highest standards of ethical practice.

To honor Bruce Burkhart's enduring contributions and to inspire future generations of Wyoming REALTORS®, we propose the establishment of an annual statewide award(s):

The Bruce Burkhart Legacy Award

The Bruce Burkhart Spirit Award

These awards recognize outstanding Wyoming REALTORS® who demonstrate exceptional dedication to real estate education, mentorship, ethical brokerage practices, leadership, and community service—core values central to our profession and aligned with the mission of the Wyoming Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Code of Ethics.

This new award would complement existing recognition, filling a meaningful gap by emphasizing the critical role of educators and mentors in sustaining a professional, knowledgeable, and ethical real estate industry in Wyoming.

Award Descriptions

- **Names:** The Bruce Burkhart Legacy Award and The Bruce Burkhart Spirit Award
- **Frequency:** Annual (with the option to withhold if no qualified nominee meets the criteria, to preserve the award's prestige)
- **Presentation:** Announced and presented at the Wyoming REALTORS® Annual Conference



- **Recognition Elements:**
 - Custom plaque or trophy
 - Feature article in Wyoming REALTORS® publications and website
 - A gift certificate or cash award to be determined by the Wyoming REALTORS® Board of Directors
 - **Legacy Award Only** - Acceptance and initiation into the Wyoming REALTORS® Omega Tau Rho Honorary

Eligibility and Nomination Process

- **Eligibility:**
 - Must be an active REALTOR® member in good standing with the Wyoming Association of REALTORS®
 - Self-nominations permitted with supporting documentation
 - Posthumous nominations considered in exceptional cases
- **Nomination Requirements:**
 - Nominations open annually (April -June) via an online form on the Wyoming REALTORS® website
 - Submitted by peers, local boards, or self
 - Required materials:
 - Nomination letter detailing the candidate's achievements
 - At least two letters of recommendation (one from a mentee/student or colleague preferred)
 - Resume or summary of professional accomplishments, including designations, teaching history, and service
 - Optional: Testimonials, course evaluations, awards, or community endorsements
- **Selection Committee:**
 - The primary committee charged with reviewing nominations and selecting recipients for these awards is the Wyoming REALTORS® Forms Committee.
 - The Forms Committee may create a special subcommittee to review nominations and select recipients for these awards.
 - **Legacy Award Only** - The Forms Committee shall include at least two existing members of the Omega Tau Rho Honorary to join the subcommittee in reviewing applications and selecting recipients.



Selection Criteria

All nominees shall be members of the Wyoming REALTORS® in good standing.

Nominees with over fifteen years of professional experience as a REALTOR® shall be considered for The Bruce Burkhart Legacy Award.

Nominees with under fifteen years of professional experience as a REALTOR® shall be considered for The Bruce Burkhart Spirit Award.

Nominees will be evaluated on demonstrated excellence across the following areas. Criteria will be weighed as appropriate, with emphasis on education and mentorship to reflect Bruce Burkhart's enduring legacy and in remembrance of Bruce Burkhart and his contributions to excellence:

1. **Excellence in Education and Mentorship** (Primary Emphasis)
 - Significant contributions to real estate education on the local, state, and national levels.
 - Significant contributions to broker-to-agent, or, agent-to-agent mentorship in the industry
 - Pursuit and maintenance of advanced education and/or designations (e.g., GRI, CRS, RLI, CCIM, ABR)
2. **Commitment to Ethical Practice and Professional Standards**
 - Unwavering, transparent adherence to the NAR Code of Ethics, Professional Standards, and Fair Housing.
3. **Leadership and Service in the Real Estate Community**
 - Active involvement as a REALTOR® at the local, state, and national levels.
 - Service in leadership roles or demonstrated advocacy for industry advancement and professionalism
4. **Community Involvement and Positive Impact**
 - Dedication to volunteerism, supporting homeownership, economic development, and/or local initiatives that help Wyoming communities thrive.
5. **Innovation and Excellence in Real Estate Practice**
 - Success in brokerage management, team building, adaptation to market changes.
 - Fostering client-focused, inclusive practices as a REALTOR®.