

Minnesota Storyteller Wins National Award

Laura Packer inducted into the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence

6 June 2020 Laura Packer, a Minnesota-based storyteller, was inducted into the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence, a select-group of storytellers determined by their peers to be standard bearers of the art, and masters at the craft. The National Storytelling Network, the nation's only storytelling organization for storytelling professionals, held the ceremony at its virtual global-conference.

Loren Niemi, Chair of the National Storytelling Network Board, said, "The Circle of Excellence is given to artists by their peers in recognition of their achievement as master storytellers, meeting and setting the highest standards of artistic expression over time. It recognizes commitment and dedication to the art and the community of practice. We are delighted to welcome Laura Packer into the Circle in honor of her skill, hard work, and dedication."

International storyteller, author, consultant, coach, keynote speaker

Laura Packer has been a professional storyteller for over 25 years. Her work spans performance, consulting, coaching, and keynote speaking. "I am humbled and honored by this award," said Packer. "This recognition from my colleagues is breathtaking. I am deeply grateful. Stories are how we understand our lives, build connections, and create a better world. I hope my stories, workshops, and other works help many people in the years to come. "

Packer began sharing stories as a child, inspired by her librarian mother and writer father. She obtained a degree with honors in Folklore and Mythology from Boston University and has been performing storyteller for over 25 years. Her 2019 books, *From Audience to Zeal: The ABCs of Finding, Crafting, and Telling a Great Story* and *From Audience to Zeal: The Workbook* won

best in their category from Storytelling World Awards. She has won many previous awards including the 2018 Minnesota Grand Storytelling Slam, the Brother Blue Award from New England Storytelling, and others.

About the National Storytelling Network and the Circle of Excellence Oracle Award

The National Storytelling Network (NSN), founded in 1975, is a membership organization made up of individuals and organizations involved in storytelling. Its mission is to advance all forms of storytelling within the community through promotion, advocacy and education.

NSN is proud to annually recognize individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to storytelling. Since their inception in 1995, the ORACLE Awards have been presented by the National Storytelling Network to those who have excelled in their art or made significant contributions to storytelling, NSN or its members. The Circle of Excellence Award is presented to artists who are recognized nationally by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling.

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