

Recipient of the 2013 CCAS Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award

The Federation of State Humanities Councils

The CCAS Arts and Sciences Advocacy Award, given annually, honors an individual or organization demonstrating exemplary advocacy for the arts and sciences, flowing from a deep commitment to the intrinsic worth of the liberal arts .

As the Board contemplated the award this year, we wanted to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the state humanities councils in bringing the work of the humanities to the public.

This year's recipient is The Federation of State Humanities Councils.



Founded in 1977, the Federation is the membership association of 55 state and territorial councils. Through its program of research, conferences, collaborative projects, and communication to members, legislators and others on issues of public interest, the Federation provides support for the state humanities councils and strives to create greater awareness of the humanities in public and private life.

With only a limited budget, the Federation of State Humanities Councils has a big impact. Among other activities, the Federation brings together the state humanities councils to advocate with Congress for National Endowment for the Humanities funding, including the significant portion that flows through to the state councils, and through the course of that also advocates for the value of the humanities in all of our lives. By bringing the state councils together for advocacy purposes, they have also succeeded in fostering the sharing of best practices that allow the councils to learn from each other in ways that benefit their respective programming, private fundraising, data collection, and other areas of operations.

The Federation has also worked tirelessly with the NEH itself and other humanities-related advocacy groups, such as the National Humanities Alliance, to foster the humanities generally and engage the public as to the value of the humanities in our everyday lives. Esther Macintosh has served as the president of the Federation since 2004.