

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Excellence in Health Award 2017
JJ Huntley – Pinedale Aquatic Center
Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

Ranae Pape, with the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Presented the 2017 Excellence in Health award in Pinedale May 3rd at the Pinedale Aquatic Center to JJ Huntley of the Pinedale Aquatic Center.

The Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports promotes, educates, encourages, and provide opportunities for all citizens of Wyoming to help them achieve overall well-being through physical activities and health awareness. We work as a council to sponsor and promote physical activity and sports throughout the State of Wyoming.

The mission of the council is to promote, educate, encourage, and provide opportunities for all citizens of Wyoming, to help them achieve overall well-being through physical activities and health awareness. Our mission can’t be accomplished alone—we need the help from those of **you in Wyoming** who have the passion and drive to promote health and wellness in their workplace and/or their environment.

One of the opportunities the council has each year is to award a person with the Excellence in Health Award. The Excellence in Health Award is someone who represents a true leader in the area of physical activity and health and wellness. The award will recognize their success, dedication, and devoted excellence to physical activity.

The Excellence in Health award allows us to appreciate publicly these citizens in Wyoming that have, by teaching, volunteering, role modeling or in other ways, encouraged Wyoming residents to make healthy lifestyle choices. This year, 2 awards will be given in Wyoming. The council reviews applications and votes on who to have as a representation for Wyoming in Health and Wellness.

Luckily in Sublette County, it was easy to find someone who represented all that the Governor’s council hopes to represent for all areas of physical fitness and sports.

This year, the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports awarded JJ Huntley with the Pinedale Aquatic Center the 2017 Excellence in Health Award.

Amber Anderson with the Pinedale Aquatic Center completed the nomination to the Council to award her mentor this year’s Award.

In summary from Amber Anderson's application for JJ Huntley's resume in Health and Wellness, it was recognized of all the years of service JJ has provided to Sublette County. JJ has been an incremental part of health and health promotion in the Pinedale community for almost 25 years! From her original roots as the manager of the old Pinedale pool, to the director of the Pinedale Aquatic Center, JJ is passionate about health and fitness and loves her work. She works so others can play. She herself is a quintessential example of a person who leads by example in maintaining a healthy lifestyle through physical fitness.

JJ has done it all! From the top management to every level of requirement within an organization, JJ has completed. She has completed repair and custodial work to keep the public pools open, healthy, and inviting. She has taught swim lessons to nearly every child within SCSD#1 for the past twenty-years. In addition, she has been a group fitness instructor. Currently, as the director of PAC, JJ oversees the operations of a state of the art facility that hosts an array of fitness opportunities for the Pinedale community. From adult leagues, to youth programs, special events for families, fitness classes, summer camps, and opportunities for the everyday fitness enthusiast, PAC has something for everyone!

Pinedale now has a solid offerings of youth sport programs, special events, and adult leagues that are not interrupted by the ebbs and flows of if a volunteer will continue them. PAC is working ever more with the varsity level coaches to create comprehensive sport programs, not just yearly teams. PAC provides a getaway for senior citizens, stay at home moms, tired parents, energy-filled kids, and everyone else... PAC is a place FOR the community!

One member of the initial planning committee for the Pinedale Aquatic Center noted, "One of the things about JJ. She was the only person in the room that understood just what impact building the PAC would be to the community. Board members, and others just did not have the vision what PAC could be when we were in the design and building stages. JJ did. Her positive attitude and manner with people is another outstanding quality that is hard to find. Those two things together have been part of the growth of PAC in the community. She had a vision no one saw at first and her positive attitude continues to grow as the PAC gets closer to 10 years in the community." Additionally, JJ has represented Pinedale within the Wyoming Recreation and Parks Association as a board member and active member. She works regularly with collaborative groups (like Prevention Coalition, Coordinated Care, community partners, soccer enthusiasts) to create and expand upon recreational opportunities for our community. She lives, breaths, and bleeds PAC - her whole heart is invested in her job - it is her passion!

If you are from Pinedale, you probably cannot image Pinedale without the Pinedale Aquatic Center. Doesn't that speak for itself?! It is because of JJ's grand vision of what PAC could be in the community that put PAC where it is today. She saw "more than just a pool" and lead her staff to create an organization the community "can't imagine living without."

Ambers nomination and words about JJ is a powerful representation of health and wellness for our community.

Woodrow Wilson once said... "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. "

This quote sums up the passion and desire that JJ Huntley has had for the Pinedale Aquatic Center and Sublette County. There is no better recipient for the Excellence in Health Award than to JJ Huntley. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports is proud to present JJ with her plaque for all she has done for wellness in Sublette County and for Wyoming!