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The American Geographical Society Awards 2023 Alexander & Ilse Melamid Medal to Dr. Sallie Marston

Description: The Alexander & Ilse Melamid Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious awards given by the Society. Dr. Sallie Marston, Regents Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Development & Environment and Co-Founder of the Community and School Garden Program at the University of Arizona, received the prize during the AGS Fall Symposium, held November 16-17, 2023 in New York City, NY.

[New York City, NY] - [December 29, 2023] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) presented Dr. Sallie Marston, Regents Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Development & Environment and Co-Founder of the Community and School Garden Program at the University of Arizona, with the 2023 Alexander & Ilse Melamid Medal for outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources. AGS Vice President and Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Dr. Deborah Popper, remarked, "[Marston's] transformative work exemplifies the ambition of the Melamid medal. It powerfully changes the relationship between human culture and natural resources and, strikingly, this for a particularly vulnerable population." This medal was presented on Friday, November 17, 2023 during the Society’s annual Fall Symposium held in New York City, NY.

Established in 2002, the Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal was named after AGS Councilor Alexander Melamid, who served on the board from 1975 until his death in 2001. Dr. Melamid was the recipient of another AGS medal, the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal, which he received in 1991. After Dr. Melamid’s death, the medal was created in his honor by his wife, Ilse. This medal seeks to award those who examine the influence of humans on the natural world.

Dr. Marston is Regents Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Development & Environment and Co-Founder of the Community and School Garden Program at the University of Arizona. A feminist geographer, her work is located at the intersection of socio-spatial theory and politics. Her most recent research examines how experiential learning in school gardens and their wider campus ecologies shapes the subjectivities of low-income children, particularly the ways collaboration and caring for human and non-human nature produces an ethical subject able to engage with a complex world of "others." Marston co-founded the Community and School Garden Program at the University of Arizona, which supports Pre-K to 12 in Title 1 school campuses across the Tucson region, infusing ecological knowledge, other sciences, and math into everyday life and learning for low-income students.

The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is
recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

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