

Loge presented achievement gift

By Dick Crockford
Dillon Tribune staff

"Academic chair" has taken on a little different meaning for Dillon's Dr. Ron Loge.

Last week, in a surprise presentation, Loge, medical staff chief at Barrett Hospital, was given a finely crafted wooden office chair to mark the occasion of his fourth nomination for the WWAMI Excellence in Teaching honor.

Dr. Douglas Paauw, Medicine Student Programs director at the University of Washington, presented the chair, which was engraved on the front of the seat back with the UW seal and on the back with the designation, "Superior Teacher of the Year in Perpetuity". Meghan Johnston of Dillon, a soon-to-be-fourth-year UW medical student, accompanied him on his mission.

WWAMI is the regional medical education network of the University of Washington School of Medicine. The states involved in the program are Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

According to Paauw, this is only the second time such a chair has been presented. The Excellence in Teaching award honors Loge for his service as a supervising physician for WWAMI medical students. Paauw explained that those honored as teachers of the year are first nominated by the medical students whom they mentor, and are then elected by a panel of medicine professors following a screening by those instructors.

Loge has been named Teacher of the Year four different times. Presentation of the chair "retires" him from the process, and he will be known as Teacher of the Year for all time, Paauw said. Loge has been serving as mentor for medical students for about eight years.

"No one," Paauw said, "does more in a year" than Loge. The Dillon physician usually takes a WWAMI medical student under his wing for six weeks at a time every 12 weeks or so, a total of 24 weeks a year. Paauw said that rate is about six times the



In perpetuity

Dr. Ron Loge of Dillon inspects the inscription on the back of his new chair that declares him a "Superior Teacher of the Year in Perpetuity". Looking on are University of Washington medical students Meghan Johnston of Dillon and Matt Kirkpatrick of Great Falls, who assisted Dr. Douglas Paauw (right), UW medicine professor, in presenting the chair. Dick Crockford photo

participation of other mentors.

Earlier this year, Loge was named the Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Teacher of the Year by the American College of Physicians.

Loge served as Johnston's instructor during her stint at Barrett Hospital in February and March of this year. She praised him as a "mentor" who is more than simply a teacher for those students under his supervision.

Also on hand for last Wednesday's presentation were Matt Kirkpatrick, a third-year stu-

dent from Great Falls who is currently under Loge's tutelage at Barrett Hospital, Loge's wife, Charlene, and several hospital staff members.

WWAMI aims to meet the health care needs of the region, make public medical education accessible to residents of these five states, and encourage graduates to choose careers in primary care medicine and locate their practices in non-metropolitan areas of the Northwest.