

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Diversity Incentive Award To Noma B. Anderson, Ph.D.**

Presented by

Colleen M. O'Rourke, Honors and Awards Committee

Georgia State University

The Council's Diversity Incentive Award is presented to the individual, individuals, or academic programs making significant contributions to achieving diversity in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Recipients of this award are individuals or academic programs that have made a significant contribution to increasing the presence of under-represented populations in our field. Last year was the inaugural year for this award and it was presented to the graduate program at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus. This year's recipient is an individual whose legacy of commitment to enhancing diversity in our field is unequalled.

Our honoree initiated her studies in speech-language pathology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and graduated with her bachelor's degree from Hampton Institute. She proceeded to earn her master's degree at Emerson College and embarked on her academic career at Hampton University. She returned to school to earn her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1985 she left Hampton University to continue on her career path in academia at Howard University.

A review of this individual's record of publications, grants, and professional presentations attests to her leadership in issues of cultural diversity including the development of cultural competence, the use of culturally valid assessment and intervention strategies, interaction with culturally diverse clients and families, and ways to achieve cultural diversity in university programs. Universities and agencies have sought her expertise and advice as noted by the number of

adjunct faculty positions and consultantships, including five years with the National Institutes of Health, our honoree has held during her career.

Her service has extended far beyond her academic role. She was Deputy Director of the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing from 1982 to 1984. She has served as ASHA's Vice President for Academic Affairs and has devoted many years of service to ASHA's Council on Professional Standards, the ESB (now CAA), the Clinical Certification Board and the Council for Clinical Certification, and Special Interest Divisions 1 and 10. In 1992 our honoree became an ASHA Fellow and in 1999 she received the Honors of NSSLHA. For our own Council this individual was secretary and board member in 1991 to 1993 and we have seen her as a presenter at past Council conferences.

What is missing from this list of distinguished achievements and contributions, however, is the number of minority students that this individual has recruited and mentored through their academic programs and on into their professional careers. How many of us have seen this colleague at conferences and meetings where she is giving and receiving hugs from myriads of young professionals whose lives she has touched?

When we think of this individual many of us immediately think of her years of leadership as Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Howard University. She has brought those leadership skills and talents to Florida International University in Miami where she now serves as Director of the School of Health.

For her dedication and outstanding contributions to achieving diversity in our field, it is my pleasure to present the Diversity Incentive Award of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders to Dr. Noma Anderson.