

5th Annual African American Females Professor Awards Nomination

As an African American woman who graduated from The School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Springfield College with my Master's degree in Organizational Leadership I have been inspired to pay tribute to African-American female faculty who teach at the college level.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, “In fall 2016, of the 1.5 million faculty in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, 53 percent were full time and 47 percent were part time. Of all full-time faculty in degree-granting postsecondary institutions in fall 2016, ... 3 percent each were Black males, Black females...¹. The racial and ethnic and sex distribution of faculty varied by academic rank. For example, among full-time professors, ... Black males, Black females, and Hispanic males each accounted for 2 percent of full-time professors.” Further, they continue, “...In comparison, among full-time assistant professors,...4 percent were Black females.”

African American women educators bring a diverse and distinct component to the arena of education, particularly at the college level. Many of them work full-time, have families and may be working on furthering personal learning, while committed to elevating the knowledge of others by assisting students as they obtain a college education.

We invite you to celebrate and honor African American female professors at our 4th Annual African American Female Professor Award (AAFPA) Virtual Ceremony. Event date and venue TBA. This event cannot be successful without the support and nomination of our African American female professors from your faculty, offering an opportunity for them to receive one of our three 2021 awards. Previous nominations that were not award recipients are eligible for nomination.

Our nominations process is open. Please send a letter of recommendation, sharing why you believe this individual should be recognized. Considering the world's current situation, COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter, we think it is essential that you nominate a female whose inspiration, commitment to change, adaptability and inclusion in the classroom and on campus.

Each recipient will be given the opportunity to speak for approximately 5 minutes - sharing what inspired them to teach, the challenges they may face as a minority, and what keeps them encouraged as they teach.

A panel of our peers will review the submissions and we will announce our recipients by August 15, 2021. Please send submissions to westernmass.aafpa@gmail.com. We look forward to you joining us as we recognize and appreciate African American female professors as they take their place in history.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional information or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Traci

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Chairperson, AAFPA

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Recognizing African American female professors and encouraging African American female educators to pursue advanced studies, ultimately changing the landscape of professors across higher education.