



History of the Smith- Wilson Award for Civil and Human Rights in Education



Lucy Harth Smith

Atwood S. Wilson

Established by the KEA Commission on Human Relations at the request of the KEA Delegate Assembly, the Lucy Harth Smith-Atwood S. Wilson Award for Civil and Human Rights in Education was presented for the first time in 1974, and has been continuously awarded every year since then.

The award is named for Mrs. Lucy Harth Smith (1888-1955), principal of Lexington's Booker T. Washington Elementary School for 20 years, and Atwood S. Wilson (1895-1967), principal of Louisville's Central High School for 29 years.

Mrs. Smith was a pioneer in promoting the study of Black history in the nation's schools, having been both state and national president of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. She was also president of the Kentucky and National Association of Colored Women. Mrs. Smith also served on the Governor's Committee on Youth and Children and on the executive board of the Kentucky Interracial Council.

Mr. Wilson was a longtime trustee of the Louisville Free Public Library and presented the resolution that abolished segregation of the races in Louisville's main library; later all city libraries were desegregated. He was among the first three African-Americans to receive the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver award for service to boyhood and was one of the first African Americans in the nation to be elected to Phi Delta Kappa educational fraternity.

Both Mrs. Smith and Mr. Wilson were prominent in education association activities. She was the only woman president of the Kentucky Negro Education Association (KNEA) as well as being a trustee of the American Teachers Association. For 20 years, Mr. Wilson was secretary-treasurer of the KNEA, and in 1957 was named by its successor organization, the Kentucky Teachers Association, as chairman of the merger committee to carry out the process of uniting KNEA with the Kentucky Education Association.

The Smith-Wilson Award is presented each year to a person or organization that has made notable contributions in any of the following areas: encouraging and supporting minorities to enter the teaching profession; advancing opportunities, especially educational opportunities, for youth of color; initiating or continuing impactful work in the areas of human and civil rights, or; leading in the field of innovative, creative, and equitable education for all students.



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Past Recipients of the Smith-Wilson Award

<i>Dr. Whitney M. Young, Sr.</i>	<i>1974</i>
<i>Frank B. Simpson and Charles E. Whaley</i>	<i>1975</i>
<i>Lyman T. Johnson</i>	<i>1976</i>
<i>Ann Braden</i>	<i>1977</i>
<i>Galen Martin and C. G. Merritt</i>	<i>1978</i>
<i>Pallen Nubia Starks</i>	<i>1979</i>
<i>Ovetta Taylor Basey</i>	<i>1980</i>
<i>Ann Brewer Black</i>	<i>1981</i>
<i>Congressman Carl D. Perkins</i>	<i>1982</i>
<i>Mary Lois Smith</i>	<i>1983</i>
<i>YMCA Black Achievers and Dr. Raytha L. Yokley</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Richard H. Smith</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>Marnel Moorman</i>	<i>1986</i>
<i>Oscar M. Cross</i>	<i>1987</i>
<i>Sylvia Bivins</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>Frank Brown, Jr.</i>	<i>1989</i>
<i>Michael D. Lowery</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>Joe Roach</i>	<i>1991</i>
<i>Lesley Acton</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Lorraine Mathis</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>J.C.T. A.</i>	<i>1994</i>
<i>Marnel C. Moorman</i>	<i>1995</i>
<i>Dr. Lyman T. Johnson</i>	<i>1996</i>
<i>Lucille Dunn Weathers</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>*Ed Hamilton</i>	<i>1998</i>
<i>Thomas McKune</i>	<i>1999</i>
<i>Rev. Dr. Walter Malone</i>	<i>2000</i>
<i>Dr. William C. Parker</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Dr. Jacqueline Burnside</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>Alma Randolph</i>	<i>2003</i>
<i>J. Maynard Thomas</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>Barbara Baker</i>	<i>2005</i>
<i>Brenda Watson</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Marilyn Marshall Jones</i>	<i>2007</i>



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Past Smith-Wilson winners, con't.

<i>Olivia Burr</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>James H. Bowles and Anthony Wilson</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Rosetta Lucas Quisenberry</i>	<i>2010</i>
<i>*Jerry Gore</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>Fredricka Hargrove</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>*Edward White</i>	<i>2013</i>
<i>Rosalyn Akins</i>	<i>2014</i>
<i>*Dr. George Moorman</i>	<i>2015</i>
<i>Judge Denise Clayton</i>	<i>2016</i>
<i>Pastor Anthony Walton</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Tytianna Wells Smith</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Stacey Bailey-Ndiaye</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Keith Cook (The Blue House)</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>St. George's Scholar Institute</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>Dr. Aaron Thompson</i>	<i>2023</i>

**Denotes winner of NEA Human and Civil Rights Award*