



# NAMRC AWARDS NOMINATION APPLICATION

**Submission Deadline: April 5th**

**Conference Awards Committee Co-Chairs:**

Valyncia Wilson, MS, CRC, LPC-S

Adrienne M. Robinson, EdD, CRC

The NAMRC awards program was established to acknowledge exemplary performance of members of the Association in support of the organization and/or its mission. Annual awards are presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the categories identified by the Association. The awards are significant in that they represent recognition by one's peers, as association members make both the nominations, and final selections.

**The award categories and their descriptions are as follows:**

***1. BOBBIE ATKINS RESEARCH AWARD***

It was the research and publication of Bobbie Atkins, which provided the impetus for increased awareness surrounding the special issues impacting persons of color with disabilities. Her landmark research, "*Vocational Rehabilitation of Blacks: The Statement*," published in the *Journal of Rehabilitation* in 1980, disclosed the inherent inequities for blacks served by the public vocational rehabilitation system. Since her publication, Dr. Atkins a professor at San Diego State

University has been a leading educator, publisher, researcher and trainer, grant developer, and spokesperson on multicultural, gender and other issues in rehabilitation.

### ***CRITERIA***

*Recipients of this award should have distinguished themselves by:*

- *The production of a significant volume of exemplary research and associated publications.*
- *The inclusion of research related to multiculturalism and disability.*
- *The development of research which has or will make a difference in thinking and/or practice in the multicultural arena.*

## ***II. JOYCE KEENER MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD***

**This award is named after the inspirational first national leader of NAMRC, and convener of the first national association conference. As its first leader, she was instrumental in the achievement of NRA division status for the Association and spurred the initial growth of the NAMRC by assisting with chapter growth in Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia. She is also a past president of the Michigan NAMRC chapter and represented the NAMRC division on the NRA board.**

### ***CRITERIA***

*Recipients of this award are individuals who have provided:*

- *Continuous and loyal service and leadership to the association, usually in a variety of capacities and at national, state and local levels.*
- *Extensive time and energy as evidence of their love for the association and belief in its goals.*
- *Effective commitment and service to multicultural issues.*

## ***III. T. K. BRIDGES PRACTITIONER AWARD***

**This award is named after a former counselor, supervisor, and manager for the Alabama Rehabilitation Agency from 1972-1994. He retired as the highest-ranking African-American professional and was also active with NRA as first president of the Alabama NAMRC chapter, president of the Alabama Rehabilitation Association, and the first African-American president of the Alabama Rehabilitation Counseling Association. He had a deep commitment to rehabilitation counseling and coined the term “elite practitioner” to denote competence and professionalism in the field.**

## **CRITERIA**

*This award honors those persons who:*

- *Are engaged in direct service delivery in rehabilitation as counselors, technicians or specialists; and/or as supervisors, managers and consultants.*
- *Have provided extended, dedicated and exemplary service to persons with disabilities from culturally diverse backgrounds.*
- *Demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and competence in their field.*

### **IV. THE SILVIO SEAN REYES STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**This award is named after a doctoral student in rehabilitation at Southern Illinois University who served as the Association's first student representative to the board. In this capacity, he was an active board member who represented and provided liaison for the voice of students to the board, participated in the board's strategic planning, was significantly involved in outreach and recruitment of student members, and contributed to the annual conference by conducting and/or coordinating workshops for students.**

## **CRITERIA**

*Recipients of this award are persons who:*

- *Have established themselves academically at the graduate level in rehabilitation or a related field.*
- *Have demonstrated a commitment to multicultural issues.*
- *Have provided active service to the Association.*
- *Have demonstrated leadership in school, disability/rehabilitation or Association activities.*

### **V. FELICIA HUNTER ORGANIZATION AWARD**

**This award is established to recognize organizations, agencies, institutions or businesses that have made outstanding contributions which have had a major impact on multicultural populations, programs, systems or issues.**

## **CRITERIA**

*Recipients of this award are organizations whose efforts:*

- *Are impactful by virtue of being significant and substantial over time or innovative and creative, and/or courageous in nature.*
- *Demonstrate leadership by example, signifying practices or activities worthy of emulation*

**VI. VIRGIE WINSTON-SMITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**This award is named in memory of a long-time member of the association from California who advocated on behalf of the Association and the issues it represented. She was a strong and vocal spokesperson for multicultural issues and represented well the dignity and professionalism of persons of color.**

***CRITERIA***

*The award represents the Association's highest honor and is established to recognize an individual's distinguished career in support of rehabilitation and multicultural issues as evidenced by:*

- *Continuous and dedicated service to NAMRC over time in a variety of service and leadership capacities.*
- *Extended exemplary leadership and service to the rehabilitation profession(s).*
- *Leadership and involvement, and service and advocacy on behalf of multicultural issues in rehabilitation.*

**VII. VERNON E. HAWKINS PIONEER & LEADERSHIP AWARD:**

**This award was established in 2007 and was named after a rehabilitation professional from the District of Columbia, (DC) who in 1969, along with eight other persons, petitioned the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) at its annual conference to address the inequities facing Non- whites in Rehabilitation. His efforts resulted in the establishment of the National Council of Non- White Rehabilitation Workers within NRA, and a permanent seat for the Council representative on the NRA board. Later, as State VR Director for Washington, DC, his leadership and advocacy resulted in the increased involvement of persons of color throughout the field of rehabilitation.**

***CRITERIA***

*Recipients of this award are individuals who demonstrate:*

- *Exemplary leadership and advocacy over time on behalf of multicultural issues in rehabilitation.*
- *Pioneering efforts on behalf of multicultural issues in rehabilitation, which have made an historical impact on rehabilitation professionals, the clients they serve or the larger rehabilitation community.*
- *Demonstrated courage and visibility in "going against the grain" to further a multicultural issue in rehabilitation.*

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Nominations may be submitted by any member of the association and forwarded to the Awards Committee. The nomination will include a rationale for why the individual is being recommended for the award and should follow other guidelines as to length, content and format as established by the committee. Three supporting letters of recommendation must accompany the nomination application, otherwise the nomination is not considered complete and valid.

The committee will evaluate the nominees against the published award criteria based on their merit as evidenced by the information contained in the written nomination. Timelines have been established to assure that award recipients are identified and notified no later than June 1, 2024 of their award selection or non-selection.

*National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Awards*

2024 NAMRC AWARDS NOMINATION APPLICATION

(Please check one nomination category)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bobbie Atkins Research Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Joyce Keener Meritorious Service Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **T. K. Bridges Practitioner Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Silvio Sean Reyes Student of the Year Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Felicia Hunter Organization Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Virgie Winston-Smith Lifetime Achievement Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vernon E. Hawkins Pioneer & Leadership Award**

**Individual/Organization Submitting Nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe why the individual is being recommended for the award:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Three (3) letters of recommendation must accompany a completed nomination form (i.e. letter from the individual making the nomination and two (2) additional letters of support). All nominees must be NAMRC members. The nomination and letters of recommendation shall include a detailed rationale for why the individual is being recommended for the award and how he/she meets the award criteria. Nominations will be evaluated by committee on how nominee meets the criteria set forth as outlined for each specific award category.**

Submit a completed nomination application and three (3) letters of recommendation electronically in Rich Text Format (RTF) or Portable Document Format (PDF) to:

**Valyncia Wilson**  
[VMWilson@okdrs.gov](mailto:VMWilson@okdrs.gov)

***NAMRC AWARDS COMMITTEE:***

Valyncia Wilson, MS, CRC, LPC-S  
Adrienne M. Robinson, Ed.D., CRC

The deadline for submission of all materials is April 5, 2024