2016 EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARDS

Through the Looking Glass: A Whole New World
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Amanda J. Compadre
  College of Medicine
  “Currently, while attending the UAMS College of Medicine and achieving honors in every one of the courses she has taken, Amanda is serving as the class secretary and served as the Co-President of the Edith Irby Jones Chapter of SNMA. In this capacity she not only promoted the growth of the chapter, but also led fundraising and volunteer activities in the local community. Amanda volunteers regularly as a bilingual medical student at two local free clinics. Her bilingual and bicultural abilities have been an asset to provide patients with the best health care possible.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Rose Cooper
  Graduate School

  “I am positively impressed by how selfless Rose is, especially when it involves foreign classmates. In addition to helping them with their academics, she takes a further step to learn about their various cultures and makes attempts to help them assimilate into this new environment.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION AWARD
NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Salil Joshi
College of Public Health

“Salil is easily one of the best students I have ever worked with. He embraces diversity in his beliefs and in his practice. His leadership strengths are many. One example of this is demonstrated by his role as the founder of TEDx Little Rock. Finally, his strength of personal character is without peer.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Clarice Montgomery
College of Pharmacy

“During her P1 year, she redesigned our high school compounding lab and developed a high school affiliate chapter and mentorship program. As SNPhA chapter president and president-elect, she was heavily involved in planning the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) Conference with the Student National Medical Association. Under her leadership, our chapter won the 2016 Rite Aid/SNPhA National Chapter of the Year Award.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Fabiola Obregón

College of Medicine

“As a registered dietitian, Fabiola leads diabetes nutrition group classes in Spanish. She also volunteers at West Side Free Medical Clinic where she focuses on providing care and education to native Spanish speakers. She exhibits commitment to diversity through her many volunteer activities and in addition demonstrates a caring and empathetic heart that remains open to those who face inclusion challenges.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Quinton Palmer

College of Medicine

“Quinton has shown his commitment to the spirit of diversity by consistently being engaged in the Center of Diversity Affairs’ outreach programs, such as the Pipeline to Health Professions. He always finds time to be of service to underrepresented groups within the community. As the Regional MAPS Liaison for SNMA, Quinton works with disadvantaged and underrepresented pre-medical undergraduate students from across the southeastern United States to ensure they are positioning themselves to be qualified applicants for medical school.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Johnasha Stuart
Graduate School

“I’ve seen her interact with her lab peers who are from diverse backgrounds, and she is able to receive feedback and collaborate with them in an inclusive manner. In addition, Johnasha has served on the Diversity Day panel and also was a keynote speaker for the UAMS Diversity Program.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• LaTasha Moore
College of Public Health

“LaTasha, as our Spanish Interpreter Coordinator, spends many hours each week helping our Latino patients get medical care at 12th Street Health & Wellness Center and beyond. She is an impressive leader of our very diverse group of Spanish Interpreters. It is not an understatement to say that she personally facilitates access to healthcare for one of the Little Rock’s most vulnerable and marginalized populations. Finally, she does this purely as a volunteer.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STUDENTS

• Trevor Johnson
College of Medicine
• “...Trevor has found himself taking on any and every opportunity to provide service throughout the campus and the local community. Whether it was the vascular screenings done for the elderly in West Little Rock or the many free health fairs given at St. Mark Baptist Church on 12th Street, he tried his hardest to make a difference.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STAFF

• Elizabeth Bard
Academic Affairs
  • “Elizabeth expresses a commitment to the spirit of diversity through word and action on a daily basis in her leadership of the Enrollment Services & Academic Administration department. She has created a truly diverse workforce of colleagues from diverse backgrounds to better serve the diverse UAMS population. She promotes a healthy work environment with all points of view being appreciated and a strong emphasis in helping all of our various constituencies with competence and respect.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STAFF

- LaShannia (Shan) Houston

Campus Environmental Services

- “Shan Houston is the Operations Manager for Campus EVS Housekeeping. We love her and the way she goes out of her way to help, fight, protect, encourage, teach, train and love us back. She is truly our voice! Our customers love her as well. She constantly reminds us that everything we do as EVS housekeepers, we do as a team. There is no “I” but “WE.” She encourages us to be the best housekeeper on campus, to smile when you enter an office, to be courteous at all times, to dress as if you are proud to have a job and to love what you do. She is our EVS hero!!
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

NOMINEES - STAFF

• George Hull
Department of Pastoral Care
• “In our pastoral care application process, diversity is George's first port of call. George ensures those who are accepted into the program are diverse in religious faith and culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, and experience. He believes that in keeping with the diversity of our employees, our chaplains who provide pastoral care and support to patients, families and staff should reflect that diversity. George’s support of women in ministry has changed the lives of many women of faith, helping them to prevail over gender bias and to move into their chosen purpose and career. He ensures our CPE program is ageless, and routinely accepts trainees in their 70s and 80s. His knowledge of comparative religions and experience in cultural and ethnic differences has made our Pastoral Care program one of the best in the nation for diversity training.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STAFF

- Mark Leonard

Information Technology ERP
- “Mark founded the Arkansas Freedom Fund (AFF). It is a 501c3 charity that provides rehabilitative recreational outdoor activities that benefit our military, veterans, wounded/disabled veterans, and their families in Arkansas. Under his direction, the AFF has helped veterans who started off barely able to walk due to combat injuries to be able to train and compete in National Triathlons and Ironman competitions. He works with the Arkansas Legislative Veterans Committee, and is an active member of our UAMS Veterans Awareness committee, and helped deliver 300 care packages to veterans last year.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STAFF

• Sheila Robinson
Geriatrics, LR Schmieding Home Caregiver Training Program, RIOA

“Our program is unique at UAMS. It is not a degree seeking program. Students come from all diverse backgrounds, not just race, but age, socioeconomic, culture and gender. Some have never attended an educational program, some have other jobs, some are young, and some are older. We have students with disabilities and Sheila is wonderful with them, working to accommodate their special needs while still maintaining the standards of the program. I have great admiration and respect for the way she treats all people that come into contact with her and for how well she represents the values of UAMS.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - STAFF

• **Patty Summons**

Geriatrics, LR Schmieding Home Caregiver Training Program, RIOA

• “As the geriatric clerkship coordinator, Patty deals with 175 medical students, 50 PA students, several APN and pharmacy students, residents from IM and FP residency and faculty to help run the clerkship program. She is able to communicate very effectively with all students from diverse backgrounds, as well as staff all over campus, as well as faculty at different sites and hospitals.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - FACULTY

• Antino Allen
  College of Pharmacy
  • “Dr. Allen is constantly providing support to the men, women, interns, graduate students, African-Americans, Latinos, and Asians who are a part of his lab without a second thought. He is quoted as saying “The lab is not only a place to do research – it’s a place to make a difference and to help change the face of science.” He is unmatched in the commitment he has shown to the endeavors of the people around him, particularly his students.”
Beatrice Boateng

Translational Research Institute (TRI)

“Dr. Boateng works to improve diversity among translational researchers at UAMS. She recently led a campus-wide assessment on the climate of diversity and inclusion and how it affects the recruitment and retention of researchers. She is involved in the UAMS Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity, and has worked to enhance mentorships at UAMS. She believes everyone has something to contribute and that there are no boundaries that cannot be overcome. She naturally brings diverse groups together, resulting in a greater good for everyone.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - FACULTY

• Janet Cathey
COM OB & GYN

• “Dr. Cathey started the UAMS Transgender Care Clinic. This clinic has become widely popular, serving a population of patients who have trouble finding care elsewhere. Without Dr. Cathey, others would not be inspired to provide this care, such as me. She had the courage and the drive to take care of a very needy group of patients that could not access health care in our state.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - FACULTY

• Cesar Compadre
COP Pharmaceutical Sciences

  “Dr. Compadre’s commitment to diversity and inclusion at UAMS includes his long-standing service on the Chancellor’s Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee (CMRRC). He has shown great leadership in pushing to make UAMS more welcoming and supportive of underrepresented minorities. He has done this not only on the CMRRC, but also in his daily work life at UAMS. His insights are sensitive and compassionate to the position of minority populations at UAMS. He has a wonderful, friendly and compassionate personality that fosters respect and is welcoming to all underrepresented minorities.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - FACULTY

• Larronda Rainey
  College of Nursing
  • “Dr. Rainey is committed to promoting an environment of diversity and inclusion for students and employees in the College of Nursing. Through her work on the Arkansas Partnership for Nursing’s Future (APNF) grant, Dr. Rainey has reached a diverse population of students across the state of Arkansas. She has partnered with 25 institutions in Arkansas to develop and implement educational programs for health care providers. She also serves as director of the UAMS online RN-to-BSN program. Part of her commitment to strengthening cultural awareness and cultural competency was the addition of a cultural course in the program revision. This course allows nurses to address the health care needs of a growing diverse patient population. She is also the director of the Growing Our Own in the Delta Scholars program, which supports activities that provide cultural competence training to the College of Nursing faculty and staff.”
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES - FACULTY

• **Kristen Sterba**
  
  Graduate School
  
  “The UAMS Graduate School is the most diverse of our six Colleges/School. We have international students from over 15 countries, as well as students from all across the United States. This high level of diversity is directly attributable to Dr. Sterba’s tireless efforts in recruitment. Under her leadership, underrepresented minority student enrollment has increased more than 150% over the last seven years. Dr. Sterba is fully committed to diversity and inclusion and all that it brings to our programs. It is not just a job to her, but part of who she is at her core.”
M. Kathryn (Kate) Stewart - COPH

“Over the course of her career, Dr. Stewart has built a reputation of being a champion for diversity and inclusion. She works tirelessly on behalf of underserved individuals, in particular for members of racial, sexual and gender minority groups. Kate has such a kind heart and a gentle spirit that she is able to welcome people of traditionally underrepresented groups. But don’t be fooled; just because she’s soft-spoken, she has a fire in her soul and a passionate commitment to creating an inclusive environment where everyone has equal access to healthcare and is represented equitably in every aspect of life in our communities. She has devoted her career to social justice work and demonstrates her commitment to the spirit of diversity by not participating on boards or committees unless they are diverse and inclusive of individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups. People trust her because they know she has their best interest at heart.”
2016 EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES!