2015 Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award

National Rural Health Day

National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded, “can do” spirit that prevails in rural America. Rural communities throughout the nation and Mississippi are wonderful places to live and work. These communities are places where people know each other, respect each other, and work together to benefit the community. Today more than ever, rural communities must address accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens. Rural community healthcare providers have both an opportunity and a challenge to provide innovative, affordable, and holistic primary care. Their work serves as a model for the rest of the country to follow, as we transition to wellness-based healthcare.

2015 Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award

The Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center is committed to improving the health, healthcare and healthcare delivery systems of rural Mississippi communities. As such, we admire individuals who share this commitment. Most often, this work goes unnoticed. In recognition of these individuals, our office will select one (1) Rural Health Champion from the state of Mississippi. This prestigious award will be given to an “unsung hero” who makes a notable contribution to health, healthcare, or a healthcare delivery system in a rural Mississippi community. This award is given in conjunction with National Rural Health Day, which is November 19, 2015. The third Thursday of November each year has been designated for this auspicious day.

Significance of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award

The significance of celebrating this day is more than recognizing individuals for their commitment to excellence in a rural community’s health, healthcare and health delivery systems. This award will also aid in building a bridge of goodwill for further working relationships in rural Mississippi communities with our institute’s research/outreach pursuits. It also serves as an opportunity to increase our network with community-based organizations, during the selection process.
Selection Criteria

The Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award nominee must:

- Work in a rural Mississippi community. Nominees may or may not live in the community in which he or she works.

- Nominees must be directly responsible for advancing the health of a Mississippi rural population through at least three (3) of five (5) of the following actions:
  
  o Contributed to the protection and promotion of health in a rural Mississippi community.
  o Organized individuals, resources, and/or organizations to confront community health issues in a rural Mississippi community.
  o Developed new services, interventions and/or supports mechanisms to improve the health of a rural Mississippi community.
  o Increased the level of awareness of an important health issue in a rural Mississippi community.
  o Demonstrates innovation and excellence in addressing the health of a rural Mississippi community.

- Previous award winners (2013-2014) are not eligible.

- It is not required that the recipient be a licensed health care professional.

- You may nominate more than one individual.

Selection Process

A community leader, supervisor, or other individual familiar with his or her work must nominate the potential Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award recipient. The attached nomination form must be submitted to Evers-Williams Institute office no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the due date listed below. A selection committee comprised of individuals representing the Evers-Williams Institute as well as other community-based organizations throughout the state of Mississippi will review all applications. Nominees will be scored based upon the level to which he or she meets the aforementioned selection criteria.
The award winner will be presented with a plaque and a $100 gift card by an Evers-Williams Institute representative in the community in which he or she lives. The award will be presented on National Rural Health Champion Day (November 19, 2015) or at a time mutually agreed upon by the award winner and the Evers-Williams Institute. Additionally, the Evers-Williams Institute representative will take a photo with the award winner, which will be displayed in the institute. The award will be announced in the recipient’s local newspaper, local news media (i.e. print, radio, television), and the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s news.

**Important Dates**

- **September 1, 2015**
  - Call for nominations open

- **October 16, 2015**
  - Nominations due to Evers-Williams Institute office by close of business

- **November 6, 2015**
  - Award winner will be notified by an Evers-Williams representative

- **November 19, 2015**
  - Award presented to recipient in the community in which he or she lives

**For more information, please contact:**

Michael L. Jones, RN, MSN, MBA  
Deputy Director, Evers-Williams Institute  
Chief Community Health Officer, Office of Population Health  
The University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Phone: 601-815-9693  
Email: mljones2@umc.edu

Erica Collins-Young  
Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, Office of Population Health  
The University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Phone: 601-815-9016  
Email: ecollinsyoung@umc.edu

**Evers-Williams Institute Website:**

https://www.umc.edu/Administration/Centers_and_Institutes/Evers-Williams_Institute/Rural_Health_Champion.aspx
Myrie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award Nomination Form

Each year, the Myrie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center will select one (1) recipient for the Myrie Evers-Williams Institute Rural Health Champion Award. Please complete this form (typed) with your nomination. Mail, fax, or email no later than October 16, 2015 to the attention of Erica Collins-Young at:

The University of Mississippi Medical Center
Office of Population Health
c/o Erica Collins-Young – Rural Health Champion Award
2500 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Fax: 601-815-9025
Email: ecollinsyoung@umc.edu

Nominee Information

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Credentials: __________________________________________________________

( MD, RN, LSW, etc.)

Address: ______________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________

Home Phone: ____________________________ Cell: __________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________

Birthdate: ____________________________ Place of Birth: ______________________

Submitted By

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: ______________________ Email: ______________________

Relationship to Nominee: ____________________________________________

Supporting Information

1. Please describe the community in which the nominee serves.
2. In no less than 50 words and no more than 250 words, please describe how the nominee is directly responsible for advancing the health of a Mississippi rural population through at least three (3) of five (5) of the following actions:

- Contributed to the protection and promotion of health in a rural Mississippi community.
- Organized individuals, resources, and/or organizations to confront community health issues in a rural Mississippi community.
- Developed new services, interventions and/or supports mechanisms to improve the health of a rural Mississippi community.
- Increased the level of awareness of an important health issue in a rural Mississippi community.
- Demonstrates innovation and excellence in addressing the health of a rural Mississippi community.

**This is your opportunity to explain why he or she should receive this award. You may attach additional pages if necessary.**
The award will be presented on National Rural Health Day (November 19, 2015) or at a time mutually agreed upon by the award winner and the Evers-Williams Institute in the community in which the recipient lives.