

**NIDILRR Researchers at Langston University RRTC Win 2021 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Awards: Vernon Hawkins Pioneer and Leadership Award and Felicia Hunter Organization Award**



Corey L. Moore, Rh.D., Director at the NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Research and Capacity Building for Minority Entities at Langston University (LU-RRTC) (90RTS0001) received the Vernon Hawkins Pioneer and Leadership Award from the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC). The award is named after Mr. Vernon Hawkins who in 1969, along with eight other persons, petitioned the National Rehabilitation Association 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 (NCNWRW within NRA), and a permanent seat for the Council on the NRA board. Later, as the DC State VR Director his leadership and advocacy resulted in the increased involvement of persons of color throughout the field of rehabilitation. Dr. Moore was recognized for his exemplary leadership, advocacy, and pioneering efforts of multicultural issues in rehabilitation, which have made an historical impact on the field of rehabilitation. As noted in one of his sponsor’s letters of support- “Especially noteworthy is your establishment and leadership of the RRTC which has had a profound impact on the rehabilitation work of HBCUs and HSIs and the student populations they serve”. Another sponsor offered “Most impressive was your article ‘Policy and Systems Issues Limiting the Participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Federal Disability Research Agenda’, which has changed the course of rehabilitation research in the field”. One other sponsor commented, “During the past twenty years, Dr. Moore has become one of the most influential and powerful advocates for minorities with disabilities”. Dr. Moore stated in receiving the award; “ Mr. Hawkins is indeed a ‘Giant’ in our field, and I stand on his shoulders as one of many agents of change addressing inequities in multicultural rehabilitation through research capacity building, service and policy research, and knowledge translation”. Dr. Moore also accepted the Felicia Hunter Organization Award on behalf of the LU-RRTC. This award is named after the long time NAMRC treasurer in recognition of her exemplary service to NAMRC and her leadership of a major rehabilitation organization serving metropolitan Detroit. The RRTC was recognized for its outstanding contributions that have had a major impact on the research agenda on multicultural issues, the development of researchers, and on enhancing the capacity of minority-serving institutions to produce research, develop practitioners, and acquire grants relevant to multicultural issues and practice in rehabilitation. Its impact on researchers is captured by one of the sponsors, “For those seasoned and new to the field, it provides fellows a safe space to ask questions pertaining to

issues impacting the profession, strategies to working with the Office of Sponsored Programs on campuses, balance building a research agenda while also teaching, and allowed seasoned grant writers to share their strategies of grant proposal development, just to name a few”. Another commented that “This level of scholarly productivity has been a model for other minority serving institutions”. In accepting this award, Dr. Moore acknowledged the contributions of all core RRTC investigators, official collaborators, and mentors from various institutions, and he thanked Langston University President Kent Smith Jr. and his administration for their ongoing strong support. Both awards were presented virtually at the 2021 NAMRC national conference on Friday, July 16, 2021. To learn more about the LU-RRTC, you may visit our website at <http://www.langston.edu/capacitybuilding-rrtc> or give us a call toll free at (855) 497-5598.

Best Regards,

Dr. Corey L. Moore

Principal Investigator and Research Director