

2016 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Human and Civil Rights Award Winner

A Life Dedicated to Educating Minorities About Diabetes and Other Health Issues

◆ **Juana R. Royster, PhD** ◆

Mary Hatwood Futrell Award



Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Juana R. Royster received her bachelor's and master's degree in home economics from Wayne State University (Detroit) and her doctorate in higher education from the University of Washington in Seattle.

In 1998 after being diagnosed with diabetes, Dr. Royster decided to dedicate her life to learning and empowering underserved communities of color with knowledge about diabetes and other health related issues.

Dr. Royster, a highly sought after speaker and one of only two African American Nutritionist Educators in the State of Washington, travels around the country facilitating health workshops around diabetes and health disparities. She also sits on panels discussing relevant health issues and most importantly inspiring her audiences to live healthier lives.

Dr. Royster has leveraged her position to advocate for women and girls. Her research focuses on the connection between poverty and poor health. And she has addressed State and Local legislatures on the gaps in public health policy that ignore the needs of the poor and working mothers.

Juana Royster's dedication to the goal of ensuring that girls of color are afforded the opportunities they deserve includes her being a mentor. She serves as a mentor and guest facilitator for the Girls Group of Color which is composed of primarily 4th and 5th graders. Dr. Royster encourages them to envision themselves as potential PhD candidates breaking the glass ceiling.

Dr. Royster also currently serves as a Community Health Education Specialist for Washington State University King County Extension (WSUKCE) where she provides community based awareness education workshops in the greater Seattle and King County communities, particularly in diabetes education.

Dr. Royster's achievements, dedication and professional memberships have rightfully earned her dozens of appreciation, gratitude and commendation awards. NEA Director Vallerie D. Fisher says, "Dr. Royster is truly a social justice fighter, and champion for both women and girls across this country."