

2017 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# Human and Civil Rights Award Winner

## ◆ Delbert Richardson ◆

### Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award



Delbert Richardson's traveling African-American museum, *The Unspoken Truths*, is remarkable in several respects.

First of all, this traveling museum is the creation of one man, a warehouse worker, with no support from foundations, corporations or other institutions.

What's more, once people see and experience the museum, they never seem to forget it. Using powerful storytelling and artifacts, Richardson's historical exhibit makes a huge impact on children and adults. He brings the tragedy of slavery and racial discrimination alive.

Quintard Taylor, Founder of BlackPast.org, the premier online site for Black History and a past winner of the NEA Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award, says: "Delbert Richardson's unique and, for me, chilling artifact collection includes actual slave shackles, branding irons, an authentic Ku Klux Klan robes and photographs of lynchings."

In addition, the museum shows how African Americans have made major contributions to American society. This section of the museum is called "Still We Rise," and it uses a 40-foot display presentation of everyday items invented by Black people. The presentation is enriched by a display of ten storyboards that focus specifically on the many contributions of Blacks in S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Brent Jones, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer in Seattle Public Schools, observes: "The museum provides children of color the opportunity to see themselves in the future as something other than the traditional aspirations of an entertainer or an athlete."

And Melia La Cour, Executive Director of Equity in Education for the Puget Sound Educational Service District, reports: "We hired Delbert to lead an event for our staff. I will never forget the expressions on the faces of my colleagues as they walked through this museum. They were horrified at the depth of suffering experienced by our African American ancestors and grateful for the opportunity to have their beliefs challenged."