

## 2023-2024 VEA FITZ TURNER COMMISSION

District	Member
A	Brad Hutchinson
B	Elizabeth Larson
C	Anthony Swann
D	Charisse Woodward
E	Nicola Ross
F	Monann Davis
G	Christina Schmitt
H	Brandon Fincham
H	Tammy Potts
H	Shaniqua Williams
I	Christopher Badgett
J	Andrea Trotter
K	Vanessa Scott
L	ChèRee Wiley
M	Milondra Coleman
N	Andrea Bolden
O	Treketta "Keeter" Harris
P	Kim Hasty
Q	Christie Jones

*For more information, please contact:*

*Taisha Steele, FTC Staff Liaison & Director  
Chastity Howard, Administrative Assistant  
Department of Human & Civil Rights  
Virginia Education Association  
8001 Franklin Farms Drive, Suite 200  
Richmond, VA 23229  
Phone: 1-800-552-9554 or 804-648-5801, ext. 324 or 335*

*Recipients of the awards will be recognized at the next  
VEA Delegate Assembly.*

## CRITERIA

- Obtain the nominee's permission.**
- Electronic or Binder** - nominations packet and all supporting materials must be submitted electronically via this link, <https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS> or in a 3-ring binder with pages in protective sleeve covers.
- Complete the "Nomination Form"**. *(See enclosed in nomination packet.) (Must be typewritten)*
- Letter of nomination** - no more than three pages, signed by an active VEA member. *(Must be typewritten)*  
Letter must specify:
  - Award for the person or group being nominated
  - Biographical information about the nominee
  - How the nominee has met the criteria for the award
- Complete the appropriate "Criteria Eligibility Form"**. *(See enclosed in nomination packet.) (Must be typewritten)*
- Two letters of support, (each letter no more than three pages)** - submitted from other members of the community familiar with nominee's work. *(These individuals need not be VEA members.) (Must be typewritten)*
- Photograph** - submit a current professional photograph of the nominee.
- A person can be accepted for more than one award. A separate nomination packet or award binder must be completed for each award being considered.**
- Supporting Materials (limited to ten single-sided pages)** - must relate to the specific awards criteria for which being nominated, may include resume, news clippings, photographs with identifying captions, magazine articles, printed programs, certificates, or audiovisual evidence *(One audio-visual material such as a jump drive, link to YouTube or Vimeo that reviewers are able to access should not exceed 30 minutes in length.)* and similar materials. **Do not send originals or bulky items.** *(See Supporting Materials section in nomination packet.)*
- Use the "Nomination Materials/Organizing Form"** to list and describe all supporting materials. *(See enclosed in nomination packet.)*
- All materials submitted become the property of the VEA Fitz Turner Commission.
- Failure to follow nomination criteria will result in disqualification.

## DEADLINE

All applications and materials must be received by **mail, electronic submission via this link, <https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS> or physical drop off by 4:30 pm, Friday, January 19, 2024** to: Taisha Steele, Staff Liaison, Fitz Turner Commission for Human Relations & Civil Rights, Virginia Education Association, 8001 Franklin Farms Drive, Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23229

The nomination packet will be posted on the VEA website - [www.veanea.org](http://www.veanea.org)

# The FITZ TURNER COMMISSION

For Human  
Relations & Civil Rights



**VEA** VIRGINIA  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

# AWARDS CRITERIA



## ABOUT FITZ TURNER

**Fitz Turner** (1922-1974) was the president of the predominantly black Virginia Teachers Association when it merged with the Virginia Education Association. As the first African American professional staff member hired by the VEA, he was a pioneer in the effort to develop human relations programs in educational settings. He is credited with helping usher in an era of fairness, justice and understanding as Virginia began to establish an integrated school system.

### FITZ TURNER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The Fitz Turner Award is presented for outstanding contributions in intergroup relations. It honors an individual or organization for outstanding leadership and for contributions which have enhanced the respect for human and civil rights in Virginia. The award is not limited to educators or local associations.

A nominee must meet **one or more** of the following criteria to be eligible for the Turner Award:

1. Demonstrates leadership and creativity in promoting positive human and civil rights and intergroup relations.
2. Works to further understanding of and appreciation for diversity in human and intergroup relations.
3. Applies meaning of positive human and intergroup relations to community situations.
4. Designs/initiates programs to identify and promote the use of effective human and intergroup relations within individual schools.
5. Develops programs to deal with human and intergroup relation issues within the school community.
6. Promotes the inclusion of human and intergroup relations training for in-service and staff development programs.
7. Nurtures the precepts of positive human and intergroup relations within students.



## ABOUT MARY HATWOOD FUTRELL

**Mary Hatwood Futrell**, a former Alexandria, VA classroom teacher, served as president of the National Education Association from September 1983 to August 1989. She was the first African American president of the Virginia Education Association (1976-78). She assumed the presidency of Education International in 1993. A teacher's teacher, she is committed to the goal of educational excellence and equity. An activist in the civil rights and women's rights movements, she is one of the founders of the Virginia Minority Caucus.

### MARY HATWOOD FUTRELL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

The Mary Hatwood Futrell Award is presented to a VEA member for distinguished leadership in education. It honors an educator whose activities have fostered equality of educational opportunities and furthered the achievement of equity and excellence in education.

To be eligible for this award, an individual must have made significant efforts in **one or more** of the following areas:

1. Motivation of students to recognize the value of all cultures.
2. Advocate of student rights for an equitable and quality education of all.
3. Achievement of equal educational opportunity.
4. Development of programs designed to gain a greater voice for women in educational policy and decision making.
5. Improvement of the economic/occupational situation of women educators.
6. Elimination of sexual bias in employment.
7. Elimination of stereotyping.



## ABOUT BARBARA JOHNS

**Barbara Johns** (1935-1991) was a 16 year-old high school student at Robert Russa Moton High School in Prince Edward County when she led her classmates in a strike to protest the substandard conditions at her school. She garnered the support of the NAACP who filed a suit at the federal courthouse in Richmond. This suit became one of the five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed in the *Brown v Board of Education* declaration of segregation as unconstitutional.

### BARBARA JOHNS YOUTH AWARD FOR HUMAN RELATIONS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The Barbara Johns Youth Award is presented to a K-12 public school student or student organization whose actions, achievements and activities in school have promoted positive intergroup relations and enhanced the dignity and esteem of others.

To be eligible for the award, the nominee(s) must meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

1. Promotes the elimination of sexism, racism, classism, bigotry or prejudice through leadership in specific activities and actions.
2. Demonstrates leadership in improving the self-esteem and conditions of minorities and the socio-economically disadvantaged.
3. Contributes to peaceful resolution of conflict and/or the elimination of social injustice.
4. Initiates school or community programs, actions or activities which promote understanding of and appreciation for diversity.

## ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Fitz Turner Commission for Human Relations and Civil Rights is charged with overseeing Union programs that enhance the growth and quality of relationships among Virginia educators.

Its duties include evaluating human relations needs within the Union, recommending action regarding intergroup relations to the Union's governing bodies and coordinating the implementation of their decisions.