# October 12, 2023

**TO:** Local Presidents

**FROM:** VEA Fitz Turner Commission for Human Relations and Civil Rights

Shaniqua Williams, Chair; Taisha Steele, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** **2024 Nominations for the Fitz Turner Commission’s Awards Program**

On behalf of the Fitz Turner Commission for Human Relations and Civil Rights, we are pleased to provide you with our Awards Packet. As you will note, the brochure combines three awards: **the Fitz Turner Award for Outstanding Contributions in Intergroup Relations, the Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Education, and the Barbara Johns Youth Award for Human Relations and Civil Rights**. If you have not already done so, now is the time to consider whom you will nominate for each award. Enclosed is a copy of the nomination packet and brochure which contains descriptions, nomination procedures, and a nomination form for each of the awards. You will also find the nomination packet and brochure on the VEA website [www.veanea.org](http://www.veanea.org). Please complete one nomination form for every award you are submitting. The awards criteria specify that **no more than ten (10) single-sided pieces** of supporting documentation. Any page after ten will not be considered. **Each award includes a plaque and $500 and will be presented at the 2024 VEA Delegate Assembly in Hampton, Virginia**.

Failure to follow nomination criteria will result in disqualification.

**All applications and materials must be received by mail, electronic submission via this link,** <https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS>**, or physical drop off by 4:30pm, Friday, January 19, 2024.**

The Fitz Turner Commission will select recipients based on the criteria described in the enclosed nomination packet and brochure at its February 2024 meeting. **Please be reminded that a nominee has to meet only one of the criteria for each award.** The documentation provided should serve as evidence that the nominee did, in fact, make a significant contribution in the area selected.

Members of the Fitz Turner Commission are available and willing to attend local and district meetings to share information about the Commission’s charges, activities and its awards program. See the enclosed listing for the names of Commissioners assigned to your district.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call us at 1-800-552-9554 extension 324 or 335 or (804) 648-5801, extension 324 or 335.

Enclosures

## c: VEA Board of Directors

 UniServ Standards Advisory Committee

 UniServ Directors

 Fitz Turner Commission

**General Awards Criteria**

**Required Materials (with checkboxes):**

* 1. Obtain the nominee’s permission.
* 2. The 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.
* 3. Complete the “Nomination Form” *(included in this packet)*.
* 4. Letter of nomination - no more than three pages, *signed by an active VEA member*.

 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
* 5. Complete the appropriate “Criteria Eligibilty Form” *(included in this packet)*.
* 6. 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.)*
* 7. Nominators must submit a current professional photograph of the nominee.
* 8. **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.**
* 9. **Supporting Materials (limited to ten single-sided pages):**
1. All supporting materials must relate to the specific awards criteria for which the individual, association, or organization is being nominated. *(See the “Criteria Eligibility Form” for each award, included in this packet.)*
2. Appropriate supporting materials 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 such as trophies, plaques or mounted certificates.
3. Use the “Nomination Materials/Organizing Form” *(included in this packet)* to list and describe all supporting materials.
4. All materials submitted will become the property of the VEA Fitz Turner Commission.
* 10. **All applications and materials must be received by mail, electronic submission via this link,** <https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS>**, or physical drop off by 4:30pm, Friday, January 19, 2024:**

**Taisha Steele, Staff Liaison**

**Fitz Turner Commission for Human Relations & Civil Rights**

**Virginia Education Association**

**8001 Franklin Farms Drive, Suite 200, Richmond, VA, Richmond, VA 23229**

**For questions, please call: 1-800-552-9554 or 804-648-5801, ext. 324 or 335**

* 11. Failure to follow nomination criteria will result in disqualification.

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***General Awards Criteria # 3-6 above must be*** ***typewritten and submitted electronically via this link,*** [*https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS*](https://vea.link/2024FTCAWARDS) ***or in a 3-ring binder; however, those items are not counted as part of the ten single-sided pages of supporting materials.***

**Nomination Form**

*VEA accepts nominations without regard to race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.*

I nominate the following individual/organization for the: (check one)

Fitz Turner Award [ ]

Mary Hatwood Futrell Award [ ]

Barbara Johns Youth Award[ ]

*(See* ***Criteria Eligibility Form*** *for descriptions.* *Nominee only has to meet* ***one*** *or more of the criteria*)

***A separate nomination packet or award binder must be completed for each award being considered****.*

**NOMINEE INFORMATION**

VEA Member [ ]  Non-Member [ ]

Nominee’s Name

Address

City State Zip

Home/Cell Phone School/Office Phone

Home Email

Position

Local Association

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION**

VEA Member [ ]  *You must be an active VEA member to submit a nomination.*

Nominator’s Name

Address

City State Zip

Home/Cell Phone School/Office Phone

Home Email

Position

Local Association

Submitted by

 ***(signature)***

**Fitz Turner Award for Outstanding Contributions in Intergroup Relations**

**Criteria Eligibility Form**

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.**

Explain how the nominee meets **one or more** of the following criteria:

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| --- |
| 1. Demonstrates leadership and creativity in promoting positive human and civil rights and intergroup relations. |

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| --- |
| 2. Works to further understanding of and appreciation for diversity in human and intergroup relations. |

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| 3. Applies meaning of positive human and intergroup relations to community situations. |

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| 4. Designs/initiates programs to identify and promote the use of effective human and intergroup relations within individual schools. |

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| --- |
| 5. Develops programs to deal with human and intergroup relation issues within the school community. |

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| 6. Promotes the inclusion of human and intergroup relations training for in-service and staff development programs. |

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| 7. Nurtures the precepts of positive human and intergroup relations within students. |

**Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Education**

**Criteria Eligibility Form**

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.

Explain how the nominee meets **one or more** of the following criteria:

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| 1. Motivation of students to recognize the value of all cultures. |

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| 2. Advocate of student rights for an equitable and quality education of all. |

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| 3. Achievement of equal educational opportunity. |

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| 4. Development of programs designed to gain a greater voice for women in educational policy and decision making. |

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| 5. Improvement of the economic/occupational situation of women educators. |

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| 6. Elimination of sexual bias in employment. |

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| 7. Elimination of stereotyping. |

**Barbara Johns Youth Award for Human Relations and Civil Rights**

**Criteria Eligibility Form**

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

Explain how the nominee meets **one or more** of the following criteria:

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| --- |
| 1. Promotes the elimination of sexism, racism, classism, bigotry or prejudice through leadership in specific activities and actions. |

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| 2. Demonstrates leadership in improving the self-esteem and conditions of minorities and the socio-economically disadvantaged. |

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| 3. Contributes to peaceful resolution of conflict and/or the elimination of social injustice. |

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| --- |
| 4. Initiates school or community programs, actions, or activities which promote understanding of and appreciation for diversity. |

**Nomination Materials/Organizing Form**

To help us identify supporting materials received with award nominations, please list and briefly describe your artifacts below.

Number of items included:

List and describe the supporting items:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.