

# Geneva Smitherman Award for Research in Black Languages, Literacies, Cultures, and Rhetorics

## Dr. Geneva Smitherman

University Distinguished Professor Emerita, Michigan State University



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**Dr. Geneva Smitherman (“Dr. G”), a pioneering scholar-activist in sociolinguistics and Black studies whose work has had a profound impact on the field of composition studies, focused on issues and ideas such as disrupting Black language discrimination and oppression in and outside of the academy, linking Black linguistic theory to teaching practice (e.g., writing, reading, speaking), employing Black cultural tradition as a tool to promote multilingualism and advance social justice, and illuminating and raising awareness about the art and power of Black rhetoric as manifest in music, speeches, sermons, literature, and everyday life. Established by the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus in recognition of Dr. Smitherman’s scholarship and active contribution to numerous education and professional organizations, including NCTE and CCCC, this award honors promising research committed to raising awareness and educating the public about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics.**

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### **Purpose**

This award is designed to support promising research committed to raising awareness and educating the public about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics. Manuscripts entered into competition should be related to the field of composition studies, e.g., FYC, WAC/WID, WPA, digital rhetoric, writing assessment, linguistics, literacy, TESOL, writing centers, literature, teacher education/professional development, English studies, disability studies, LGBT studies, gender studies, race/ethnicity studies, among others. With this award, the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus seeks to encourage and recognize promising research that furthers the spirit and scholarship of Dr. Geneva Smitherman. This award will be presented to one Black graduate student enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university with a demonstrated interest in raising awareness and educating the public about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics, articulating plans for future research relative to composition studies.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants for the award must meet the following guidelines:

- The applicant must be a Black graduate student enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university.
- The applicant must have a demonstrated interest in raising awareness and educating the public about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics, articulating plans for future research relative to composition studies.
- The applicant must be nominated by a member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus in good financial standing.

### **Manuscript Procedures**

Original, previously unpublished research papers should be submitted in APA format. All manuscripts must be 15-30 pages in length (tables, figures, references, and appendices are considered part of the “manuscript”) and have at least 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides and must be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12” font. Successful manuscripts should:

- Interrogate the intersections between Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics and composition studies.
- Address issues of social justice, equity, inclusion, diversity, and/or access.
- Forge new connections and conversations between Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics and composition studies.

Applicants should also include a one-page letter of application. The letter of application should: (1) include the applicant’s: first and last name, institution name, department and program of study, current address, email address, and telephone number, (2) identify the applicant’s race/ethnicity, and (3) demonstrate the applicant’s interest in Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics, articulating plans for future research relative to composition studies.

One letter of nomination must accompany all letters of applications and manuscripts. The letter of nomination must come from someone other than the applicant (e.g., major professor or thesis/dissertation advisor) who is a member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus in good financial standing and should: (1) state why the applicant should be considered with reference to the applicant’s scholarship and plans for future research relative to composition studies, and (2) verify that the applicant is a Black graduate student enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university.

### **Application Procedures**

Applications must be received by **11:59 p.m. CST on February 5<sup>th</sup>**, and must include the applicant's: letter of application (first) and manuscript (second). Applications should be sent electronically as a single-file PDF attachment to Dr. Shenika Hankerson ([sdhanker@umich.edu](mailto:sdhanker@umich.edu)).

One letter of nomination from a member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus in good financial standing should be sent directly to Dr. Shenika Hankerson ([sdhanker@umich.edu](mailto:sdhanker@umich.edu)) by the person writing the letter of nomination.

### **Dates and Deadlines:**

- **February 5<sup>th</sup>**: Deadline for receipt of applications.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup>**: Results of final judging. Applicants will be notified of the results shortly after.

### **Award**

The award recipient will receive:

- A certificate designating the individual as the recipient of the Geneva Smitherman Award for Research in Black Languages, Literacies, Cultures, and Rhetorics.
- A monetary award of \$500 to be used for future research.

This award will be given at the 2018 CCCC's Black Caucus meeting.

*Any publication or professional conference presentation that comes out of research supported by this award should acknowledge that the work was supported by the Geneva Smitherman Award for Research in Black Languages, Literacies, Cultures, and Rhetorics.*