

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

## Dr. Geneva Smitherman

University Distinguished Professor Emerita  
Michigan State University



**Established by the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus in recognition of Dr. Geneva Smitherman’s (“Dr. G”) scholarship and active contribution to numerous education and professional organizations, including NCTE and CCCC, this award honors one promising researcher in the field of Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics.**

### **Purpose**

This award is designed to support promising research dedicated to improving knowledge about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics. This award encourages promising Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics researchers who use a critical lens to investigate issues relating to diversity, inclusion, equity, and access. With this award, the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus seeks to support an African American graduate student enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university.

### **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 be nominated by a financial member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus.
- The applicant must have a demonstrated interest in Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics.

### **Application Packet**

Applicants must submit a full packet, which includes:

- 1 application letter
- 1 nomination letter
- 1 original, unpublished research manuscript

Only original, unpublished research papers should be submitted for consideration. All manuscripts must be 10-15 pages in length and have at least 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides and must be double-spaced in Times New Roman or Arial 12” font.

Applicants must also include a one-page letter of application. The letter of application should demonstrate the applicant's interest in Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics, and should include the applicant's: first and last name, institution name, department and program of study, current address, email address, and telephone number.

Accompanying all letters of applications and manuscripts must be one letter of nomination. Self-nominations are not accepted. Nomination letters must come from someone other than the applicant and from someone who is a financial member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus. The letter should: (1) state why the applicant should be considered with reference to the applicant's scholarship, and (2) verify that the applicant is a Black graduate student enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university. Nomination letters from a financial member of the NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus should be sent directly to Dr. Shenika Hankerson [sdhanker@umd.edu](mailto:sdhanker@umd.edu) by the nomination letter writer.

### **Application Procedures**

Applications must be received by **11:59 p.m. CST on March 1st**, and must include the applicant's: application letter (first), and manuscript (second). Applications should be sent electronically as a single-file PDF to Dr. Shenika Hankerson, [sdhanker@umd.edu](mailto:sdhanker@umd.edu)

One letter of nomination

#### **Dates and Deadlines:**

- **March 1<sup>st</sup>**: Deadline for receipt of applications.
- **March 13<sup>th</sup>**: Results of final judging. Applicants will be notified of the results shortly after.

### **Award**

The award recipient will receive one \$500 scholarship and a certificate.