

Presentation of the Second Annual Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award

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Second annual presentation of the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award. Presented at the American Academy of Health Be-

havior 7th Scientific Conference, Savannah, GA, March 26, 2007 to Ms Yvonne Brooks.

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It is my honor to present the second annual Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award. This award commemorates the life and honors the memory of the wife of one of The Academy's founders and past presidents, Dr David R. "Randy" Black. Judy died tragically in a traffic accident on January 31, 2003.

This award of the American Academy of Health Behavior recognizes early-career health behavior research that is innovative and rigorous and that makes an important contribution to science or practice. To be eligible for award consideration individuals must

- Be considered early in career, ie, <5 years postdoctoral or other terminal degree (doctoral degree not required) as of December 15th of the year in which the submission is made.

- Submit an abstract that clearly reflects data-based, meta-analytic, or theory development research related to health behavior that is adjudicated as part of the conference abstract solicitation process.

- Be the lead author on the study submitted as part of the abstract process for award consideration, though not necessarily the sole author.

- Provide a full paper, complete with any relevant tables, figures, and references, at the time of the abstract submission.

Judy K. Black's professional life was as a speech and language pathologist. As a teacher, her professional involvement spanned elementary school through the university level. In the words of those who knew her best, she was someone who "prized helping people to attain their greatest potential." Her life and her memory personify the excellence and ideals for which the American Academy of Health Behavior stands.

Selecting the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award recipient follows a multistep refereed process, which I was appointed to oversee. Six judges – 4 fellows of the academy, including a previous academy laureate recipient, and 2 other members of the academy, 4 men and 2 women altogether—examined each of the 5 papers that were submitted for consideration. The papers were reviewed blindly with only code numbers assigned to them. No one associated directly with the applicant or the applicant's institution participated in the review process. Each paper was scored in 4 categories: significance (20 points), innovativeness (10 points), methodological rigor (40 points), and contribution to health behavior research or potential for application in practice (30 points) for a total of 100 points.

The highest ranked paper received a mean score of 83.2, and interrater reliability across judges was .71 in terms of overall scores. There was strong consensus among the judges with respect to

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ranking, as the winning paper was ranked first by 4 of the 6 reviewers.

The award recipient's paper is entitled "Body Mass Index/Percentage Body Fat as Health Indicators for College Students." It is a featured presentation of the Tuesday morning (March 27, 2007) poster session. I am privileged to introduce to you a person who is only the second recipient of this award, Ms Yvonne Brooks.

Yvonne holds 2 masters' degrees from Purdue University – one in audiology, the other in health promotion. This professional preparation background, coincidentally, is one that she shares with the individual for whom this award is named. Yvonne currently is in private practice in Orlando, Fla, as a health educator and counselor, personal trainer, nutritionist, and intrinsic coach. She holds national certification credentials in all 4 of these areas. However, she has notable team experience in research settings and in audiology clinical practice. In addition, her previous work includes being an instructor of English as a second language, a university teacher, and a pregnancy crisis counselor.

Yvonne is not what I would describe as a "typical scholar." Her professional preparation has been broad and varied. For instance, she is also a long-time participant in the performing arts. At an early age she was involved in ballet, as well as musical theater. In recent years she has been more active in film, although she continues to excel in various forms of dance. She has received acclaim for a

number of her acting performances.

In a description of what is important to her, Yvonne attributes faith, family, and education as directing her to her career choice. From the time that she was a teenager, her favorite courses in school were always in the science disciplines. When learning that she was named recipient of this award, Yvonne wrote to me:

I thought that I would go to medical school, but realized that I wanted to help people learn how to prevent illness, increase wellness, and return to a healthy status. I also wanted to learn how to help people take responsibility for their own health and wellness. I did not want simply to alleviate symptoms or manage disease. Much of this [desire] stemmed from the illnesses that I experienced as a teenager — knowing that there must be a better way — believing that one's behavior must play a much bigger role in health.

Yvonne attributes her drive and motivation to persons closest to her – her husband, her parents, and a beloved uncle. Regardless of who has been the catalyst for these diverse areas of success, I think the accomplishments are, ultimately, her own.

Yvonne Brooks is a truly unique individual. The Academy can take great pride and satisfaction in presenting the Judy K Black Early Career Research Award to her. It is with great pleasure that I introduce her to you.