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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES DR. IRMA MCCLAURIN FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION'S GROWTH AND SUCCESS

The National Women's Studies Association recognized Dr. Irma McClaurin, of Raleigh, NC, with a Special Award for Vision and Commitment, for her contributions to the Association's growth and vitality at its annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland on November 17, 2017. When McClaurin served as a Ford Foundation program officer she awarded NWSA two major grants that allowed the association to engage in strategic planning and to foreground women of color initiatives.

NWSA membership and conference registration have nearly doubled since McClaurin awarded the grants. Established in 1977, NWSA leads the field of women's studies in educational and social transformation. The Association develops programs, conducts research, and supports the professional development of women's studies and women's center professionals. NWSA has more than 2,000 individual and 300 institutional members worldwide.

Irma McClaurin is an activist anthropologist and award-winning author who holds the MFA in English and PhD in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she recently founded the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive and was recognized in 2016 as a Distinguished Alumna. She is a past president of Shaw University, the author of the ground-breaking anthology Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Politics, Praxis and Poetics selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title (OAT)" by Choice Magazine in 2001, a year after its publication. At the NWSA Conference, numerous students informed Dr. McClaurin that Black Feminist Anthropology had "saved my life." A Public Intellectual and writer, McClaurin was the Culture and Education Editor and columnist for Insight News of Minneapolis for several years, and in 2015 was named "The Nation's Best Columnist of the Year" by the Black Press of America. Recently, selected as a Fulbright Specialist, she is the founder of McClaurin Solutions, a leadership consulting firm. McClaurin has held positions as Chief Diversity Officer at Teach For America, a Senior faculty and coach at the Federal Executive Institute, and Program Officer for Education and Scholarship at Ford Foundation, where she funded the grants to reorganize NWSA. She also was Associate VP and founding Executive Director of the first Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center at the University of Minnesota, and founded the Africana Women's Studies Program at Bennett College as the first Mott Distinguished Chair in Women's Studies. Tenured twice in anthropology at the University of Florida and the University of Minnesota, she recently co-authored a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center grant for Duke University; designed the Special Programming for the Association of American Anthropologists' exhibition, "RACE: Are We So Different?," at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; helped acquire historic preservation status for the Oberlin Cemetery in Raleigh; and is an expert witness for immigration asylum cases. She is a member of the Ms. Magazine Committee of Scholars and sits on the Boards of the Afrolatin@ Project and Fire!!!: A Multi-Media Journal of Black Studies published by ASALH (Association of African-American Life and History), and is an adviser to the New York-based CREW (Civically Re-Engaged Women).

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