

National African-American Women's Leadership Institute, Inc.



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PRESS RELEASE

At the June graduation of the NAAWLI Class of 2004, the National African-American Women's Leadership Institute awarded the Inaugural NAAWLI Legacy of Leadership Award to Dr. Dorothy I. Height. For nearly half a century, Dr. Height has given leadership to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies a passionate commitment for a just society and her vision for a better world. Employed in many capacities by governmental and social services associations, Dr. Height is known primarily for her leadership role with the YWCA and the National Council of Negro Women. She served as president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1957 to 1998. During her tenure, she led a crusade for justice for black women and worked to strengthen the black family. Her new book, *Open Wide the Freedom Gates: A Memoir*, tells the engrossing story of her many decades of service to humanitarian causes in the United States and abroad. The National African-American Women's Leadership Institute is proud to present the Inaugural NAAWLI Legacy of Leadership Award to Dr. Dorothy I. Height.



The NAAWLI Legacy of Leadership Award is presented by the National African-American Women's Leadership Institute to recognize and honor the contributions of outstanding individuals in leadership roles in the for-profit and non-profit sectors. The Legacy of Leadership Award is an expression of NAAWLI's mission to continue the tradition of developing the leadership potential of generations of African-American women to serve and improve communities throughout this nation. The award celebrates those individuals whose lives reflect a long-standing commitment and dedication to developing, supporting and nurturing African-American women in various fields of endeavor.

Launched in 2000, the National African-American Women's Leadership Institute, Inc. seeks emerging women leaders committed to bringing about constructive change in their communities. Through NAAWLI, women discover their leadership talents and learn how to facilitate their personal growth and career development. In return, NAAWLI Fellows envision how they can improve their communities and implement that vision in ways that will result in positive outcomes such as educational excellence, youth development, social action, and improved health and wellness. Fellows are selected from corporations, non-profit organizations and represent a wide diversity of women.

The NAAWLI fellows participate in leadership development at various sites. During the initial week in Atlanta, the emphasis is on public policy making. At the Gallup Leadership Institute in Omaha, Nebraska, fellows identify their particular leadership talents and learn to use them more effectively. Between the weeklong visits, the women identify community needs in their hometowns in order to develop a community service project. Finally, the women come to Greensboro, North Carolina for a graduation celebration. For more information about the program visit the NAAWLI website (www.naawli.org).

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