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Tennessee State University Women's Center

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2008

### Women of Legend and Merit Awards March 20 2008

Tennessee State University

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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

2008  
*Women of Legend  
and Merit Awards*

SHERATON MUSIC CITY • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • MARCH 20





*Save the Date...*

*2009*  
*Women of*  
*Legend & Merit*  
*Awards*

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

6:00 P.M. RECEPTION — 7:00 P.M. DINNER  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (615) 963-5797



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
3500 JOHN A. MERRITT BOULEVARD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37209-1561



March 20, 2008

Dear Women of Legend and Merit Participants and Guests:

On behalf of Tennessee State University, I would like to extend greetings to each of you and offer best wishes for a successful 2008 Women of Legend and Merit Awards program.

We are certainly looking forward to hearing the timely, relevant and inspiring message from our keynote speaker, Ms. Victoria Rowell, and presenting her with the Lifetime Achievement Award. I would like to congratulate all of the other outstanding honorees we are celebrating tonight. You have made a difference in your respective fields and have demonstrated through your work, compassion and commitment why you are truly "Women of Legend and Merit" and deserve recognition.

To my wife, Marcy, thank you for your vision in establishing a Women's Center at Tennessee State University. This is about positively impacting lives and your selfless passion for our female students, faculty, staff and community is appreciated.

And finally, to the Women's Center Advisory Board and those here at the university who make up our core team of Women's Center administrators and volunteers, we appreciate all of your efforts in our mission "to enhance the academic experience and personal development of all women."

Thank you for your support and enjoy the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin N. Johnson".

Melvin N. Johnson  
President

"A Commitment to Excellence"  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER M/F





The Women's Center • Tennessee State University  
3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard • Nashville, Tennessee 37209



March 20, 2008

Welcome to the second annual Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner. On behalf of the committee, I want to express our gratitude to you and the many sponsors and supporters of this event. This dinner represents the realization of one of my goals for Tennessee State University, the establishment of an annual event to honor women who have made extraordinary accomplishments in their career fields and in the community.

The women we honor tonight have demonstrated excellence, determination, and strength as they have achieved in the areas of athletics, leadership, education, religion, business, community service, science/medicine, and politics/government. I congratulate all of you and thank you for your years of service.

Our speaker tonight, Ms. Victoria Rowell, will receive a special award for her achievements and we welcome her to our celebration of exceptional women. We are pleased that she has been on campus and in our community to promote her book, *The Women Who Raised Me*.

Since last year, we have launched the Tennessee State University Women's Center and several initiatives for women on campus and in our community. We hope that all of you will continue to support our efforts with the Women's Center as we try to make the campus safe and supportive for women in all areas of the community.

A special thanks to the Women of Legend and Merit Awards committee whose dedication and service make this event possible. We especially thank our chairwoman, Mrs. Jewell G. Winn, for her tireless and enthusiastic dedication to the planning of this event and support of our Women's Center.

Most importantly, we thank you, our guests, and salute our very special honorees.

Please enjoy your dinner!

Marcelite D. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Founder, TSU Women's Center



Jewell G. Winn



2008 WOLM COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 20, 2008

Greetings,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the second annual Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner. The committee has worked diligently to ensure a successful, enjoyable event and your support makes the effort worthwhile.

We are so pleased and humbled by the opportunity to celebrate such outstanding women. Traditionally, women have overcome many challenges and triumphed to greater things. These triumphs are making her-story, so naturally it is an honor to highlight the accomplishments of Tennessee State University alums and community partners. We also wish to applaud Ms. Victoria Rowell, our keynote speaker, for her tireless commitment to improving the lives of foster and adopted children.

When the vision of a Women's Center was unveiled at last year's event, we knew we had a huge challenge ahead of us, but through determination, perseverance, and support from many people, the center officially opened in December 2007. The Women's Center, though in its infancy, is designed to be a place where all women can feel empowered and embrace the issues that face them daily.

We want to thank all of the program participants, sponsors, and University departments that contributed to the success of this event. Secondly, we want to thank you for joining in our celebration and hope you enjoy the program. Lastly, please consider continuing your support of the Women's Center by joining our Circle of Sisters Society.

Hope to see you next year!

Sincerely,

Jewell G. Winn  
Chair, 2008 Women of Legend and Merit Committee





Mia Evans-Saracual



MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

Mia Evans-Saracual is a producer and reporter for the nationally-televised program, The 700 Club. She also has worked as a news producer for NewsChannel 5, Nashville's CBS affiliate.

Mrs. Evans-Saracual graduated from Tennessee State University with honors in 2002. There, she earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and minored in Bio-chemistry. She proudly served as Miss Tennessee State University 2001-2002.

During her time at TSU, Evans-Saracual's academic honors included being a TSU Presidential Scholar, All-American Scholar and a member of the National Dean's List and Golden Key National Honor Society.

Currently, she resides in Nashville with her husband, Rafael.

Programme

7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Mia Evans-Saracual, Mistress of Ceremony

Table listing program items and hosts: Greetings (Ms. Orna Jones), Occasion (Ms. Peggy Earnest), Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony (Dr. Gloria C. Johnson), Presentation of Honorees/Awards Presentations (Mrs. Mia Evans-Saracual).

Honorees

- List of honorees with categories: LUCINDA WILLIAMS ADAMS (Athletics), XERMONA CLAYTON (Leadership), IVANETTA H. DAVIS (Education), VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE (Religion), ROSETTA MILLER-PERRY (Business), PATRICIA A. PIERCE (Community Service), VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE (Science/Medicine), GEORGINNA T. SINKFIELD (Politics/Government).

Invocation (Ms. Valencia Jordan)

Dinner (Video Presentation)

Table listing dinner items and hosts: Circle of Sisters Acknowledgement (Mrs. Jewell G. Winn), Introduction of Speaker (Ms. Xandelyn Wright), Speaker (Ms. Victoria Rowell), Special Acknowledgments (Ms. Sandra Keith), Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award (Dr. Marcelite D. Johnson), Closing Remarks (Dr. Melvin N. Johnson).



*Introducing...the 2008*

*Women of  
Legend  
and  
Merit*



*Lucinda Williams Adams*



**ATHLETICS**

Lucinda Williams Adams, Olympic gold medalist and educator, graduated from Thompkins High School in Savannah, Georgia in 1955 and enrolled at Tennessee A & I State University. She became a member of the Tennessee State University Women's Track and Field Team and competed in the XVI Olympiad in Melbourne, Australia and the XVII Olympiad in Rome Italy, where she won a gold medal as a member of the 400-meter relay team. Also, she competed in the first U.S. vs. USSR track and field meet in Moscow and won two gold medals. As a member of the U.S. team, she toured and competed in Hungary, Poland, Greece, Germany and England. A member of the U.S. team for the Pan American Games held in Chicago in 1958, she won three gold medals and set the American record for the Women's 220-yard dash.

After completing the Bachelor of Science degree in Health/Physical Education and Master of Science degree in Education Administration and Supervision at Tennessee State University, she began her teaching career in the Dayton (Ohio) City Schools, in special education and, later, health and physical education. She also served as a coach for track/field, basketball, volleyball and as cheerleader advisor.

Pursuing her interest in administration, she became a supervisor of athletics/health and physical education and manager of Southwest District Track Meets in Dayton. She has served as adjunct faculty member and student teacher supervisor for the University of Dayton. In addition, she has been project director or co-director for several grants from the Ohio Department of Education, the U. S. Department of Education, and other agencies.

Mrs. Adams' professional memberships include the United States Olympian Society, Phi Delta Kappa, the Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), where she has served in numerous elected positions on the local and district levels.

Elected to the Savannah, Georgia Hall of Fame, the Northwest High Track Club Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee State University Athletic Hall of Fame, Mrs. Adams has many honors for her achievements in athletics and education. She is committed to public service and volunteers with many organizations including Special Olympics, the Girls Scouts, Heart Association, Urban League, and many others. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The Savannah native retired as associate director of Comprehensive Health, Physical Education, Driver Education and Safety of the Dayton (Ohio) Public Schools.



## Xernona Clayton



### LEADERSHIP

Xernona Clayton is the founder, president and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc. and the creator and executive producer of the Foundation's Trumpet Awards. The Trumpet Awards is a prestigious event initiated in 1993 by Turner Broadcasting, highlighting African American accomplishments and contributions. Ms. Clayton was employed at Turner Broadcasting for nearly 30 years and served as a corporate executive, one of the highest-ranking female employees at Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

Ms. Clayton began her television career in 1967 and became the South's first African American to have her own television show. The Xernona Clayton show was a regular feature on WAGA-TV, then the CBS affiliate in Atlanta. In 1988, Clayton was appointed corporate vice president for urban affairs with Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

Dedicated to promoting racial understanding, Ms. Clayton has been a leader in civic projects and civil rights activities. In 1966, she coordinated a project called the Doctors' Committee for Implementation, which resulted in the desegregation of all hospital facilities in Atlanta. Her persistent fight against prejudice and bigotry were apparent when the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan denounced the Klan and credited Ms. Clayton's influence with his change.

Appointed to several commissions and boards in government and the community, Ms. Clayton has been featured on the covers and in articles of numerous magazines. She has been listed in various editions of many impressive biographical publications, including *Notable American Women*, *The World's Who's Who of Women*, and *Foremost Women of the 20th Century*.

Her contributions to humanity have been recognized through numerous media awards, including the Emmy by the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences for a Juvenile Justice Documentary; the NAACP Image Award; American Spirit Award, the highest military honor bestowed on a civilian by the U. S. Air Force; Media Woman of the Year, by the National Association of Media Women and the Drum Major for Justice Award, by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Local Community Service Award and the 2004 Leadership and Dedication in Civil Rights Award. In 2007, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the National Association of Black Journalists.

Ms. Clayton is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations, including the National Urban League (Gold Charter member), National Association of Black Journalists (lifetime honorary member), National Association of Media Women, the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association (life member), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She resides in the Atlanta area with her husband, Judge Paul L. Brady.

## Ivanetta Hughes Davis



### EDUCATION

Ivanetta Hughes Davis was born in French Lick, Indiana to George Luster Hughes and Alice Virginia Taylor Hughes. Mrs. Davis was married to the late Dr. Walter Strother Davis, who was the president of Tennessee State University from 1943-1968.

Mrs. Davis received her Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University and her Master of Science degree from Cornell University. She also received a two-year teacher's diploma from Wilberforce University and continued further studies at the University of Tennessee.

Early in her career, Mrs. Davis served as a teacher in the French Lick and Nashville Public School Systems. She also was the teacher-principal at Clifton Elementary School. Most of her professional service, however, was as principal at Moses McKissack Elementary School. It was during her term as principal that McKissack was recognized as the first elementary school in the state of Tennessee to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This distinction led SACS to appoint Mrs. Davis to represent the state of Tennessee on its prestigious School Committee. In 1992, SACS honored Mrs. Davis with its Distinguished Achievement Award.

Mrs. Davis is an active member of First Baptist Church Capitol Hill and is involved in various social organizations, including the Nashville Chapter of the Links, Inc. (charter member); National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Metropolitan Nashville Chapter (charter member); Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Delta Omega Chapter (president, 1946-1948); American Association of University Women; and various bridge clubs.

She has served on several boards and committees, including the Tennessee Department of Corrections (first African American appointment); Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County E-911 Board; Tennessee Agri-Industry Board; John W. Work III Memorial Foundation; Alpha Delta Omega Foundation; and Meharry-Hubbard Advisory Committee.

A life member of the National Education Association, the Tennessee State University Alumni Association, and the NAACP, the retired educator continues to contribute her energy toward helping the community in various activities.

She has one son, Ivan R. Davis, Sr., M.D., a loving and devoted daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and two grandchildren.



## Vashti Murphy McKenzie



### RELIGION

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie serves as the 117th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her historic election in the year 2000 marks the first time in the over 200-year history of the A.M.E. Church that a woman obtained that level of episcopal office. In 2004, she again made history becoming the first woman to become the titular head of the denomination, as the president of the Council of Bishops. She served her one year term, making her the highest-ranking woman in the predominantly-black Methodist denominations.

Bishop McKenzie is honored to serve as the presiding prelate of the 13th Episcopal District, which includes the state of Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Her husband, Stan McKenzie, serves as the Supervisor of Missions. From 2000-2004, she served as the chief pastor of the 18th Episcopal District in Southeast Africa, which is comprised of Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique.

Prior to being elected a bishop, she served for ten years as the pastor of historic Payne Memorial AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland, growing that congregation from 330 to over 1,700 members.

Characterized as being an electrifying preacher, the former journalist and electronic broadcaster has held a variety of electronic and print media positions. She has been active in other areas, including being the founding president and organizer of the Collective Banking Group of Baltimore, as well as the organizer of the Church Health Coalition, and a former president of the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance.

Bishop McKenzie is the author of three books: *Not without a Struggle*, *Strength in the Struggle* and *Journey to the Well*, which has made several bestseller lists, including the *Essence* bestseller list for non-fiction.

She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park; holds a Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity; and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Bishop McKenzie has been honored for her community service, outstanding achievement by a number of diverse civic, educational, business and governmental leaders. She is the national chaplain for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and life member of the NAACP. She has received honorary doctorates from Howard University, Wilberforce University, Morgan State University and Goucher College.

Her husband, Stan, a former player in the National Basketball Association, is currently a human resource consultant. They have three children.

## Rosetta Miller-Perry



### BUSINESS

Rosetta Miller-Perry, a graduate of the University of Memphis, is CEO of Perry and Perry and Associates, Inc. in Nashville, which was incorporated in 1990. This company is a full service award-winning African American publishing company that serves the ethnic and majority communities. The company publishes *The Tennessee Tribune* newspaper, *Contempora*, *Contempora Events* and *Nashville Business Quarterly*.

Mrs. Miller-Perry is founder of the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce, established in 1998, and it was the vision of Mrs. Miller-Perry to form an organization that would advocate on behalf of emerging and established businesses to create new market opportunities, provide access to capital and revitalize the African American community. She also established the Anthony J. Cebrun Journalism Center to expose young people interested in careers in the field of media and communications to working professionals and receive hands-on experience in writing, editing and news production.

In her honor, two of her professors at the University of Memphis established the Rosetta Miller Scholarship, given annually to a deserving female student with superior academic grades.

Mrs. Miller-Perry has received a host of awards and honors, including a citation from President Ronald Reagan. Additionally, she is a charter member of the Metropolitan Nashville Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and was a co-founder of the Nashville Multicultural Partnership.

Mrs. Miller-Perry is a graduate of Leadership Nashville and Leadership Middle Tennessee. She is a Golden Heritage member of the NAACP, a member of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., Les Gemmes, Inc., a board member of the College Trust Fund, a former member of Governor Phil Bredesen's Task Force and the North Nashville Community Development Committee.

Mrs. Miller-Perry and her husband have seven children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is a member of First Baptist Church-Capitol Hill in Nashville.





*Patricia A. Pierce*



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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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Patricia Ann Pierce retired from Vanderbilt University in August 2007 after a career of almost thirty years as the senior director of the Opportunity Development Center (ODC). She was responsible for all University and Medical Center matters related to equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, regulations, and guidelines. She conducted workshops on a variety of topics related to equity and diversity and she served as a fact finder and mediator of grievances filed by faculty, staff and students. Previously, she worked as compliance director for the State of Tennessee Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Pierce has achieved outstanding success in the academic world and is recognized internationally as an advocate for diversity and equity. She has conducted numerous workshops on affirmative action, disability issues, gender issues, including sexual harassment, and cultural diversity for Vanderbilt, Nashville community organizations, and at regional, national, and international conferences. She has given her time to many organizations to help promote opportunities and advocate equity for women. Not only has she been a volunteer, she also has served in a leadership capacity in most of the organizations in which she's been involved, which include serving as president of the Nashville and Middle Tennessee YWCA, CABLE, Women in Numbers (WIN), Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, International Association on Higher Education and Disability, and Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET). She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Rotary International Jean Harris Award, YWCA Academy of Women of Achievement, the WHET June Anderson Award, the 2003 ATHENA Award, and the 2006 Tennessee Economic Council's Excellence & Equity Award. She is a graduate of Leadership America, Leadership Nashville, the Oxford University Roundtable, and was recently an inductee of the Tennessee International Women's Forum. She currently serves as a commissioner for the State of Tennessee Human Rights Commission; a board member for ATHENA International, CABLE, Women in Higher Education in Tennessee, Women in Numbers; and she is the committee chair for the 2008 Women's Southeastern Conference Basketball Tournament. She will serve for the third consecutive year as scholarship chair for the Tennessee Economic Council Summit.

She has a B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee. She attended the Bryn Mawr Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration and the National Institute for Leadership Development at Arizona State.

She is married to Jacky Goss. They have two sons and four grandchildren.



*Valerie Montgomery Rice*



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**SCIENCE/MEDICINE**

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Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice is dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president for Health Affairs at Meharry Medical College. She received her undergraduate degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in chemistry before attending medical school at Harvard.

She completed her residency training in obstetrics-gynecology at Emory, followed by a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Wayne State/Hutzel Hospital in Detroit. She later moved to the University of Kansas Medical School, rising to the rank of associate professor with tenure in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

In 2003, Dr. Montgomery Rice was appointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College, where she spearheaded many innovations in patient care, such as re-establishing the OB-GYN residency program. Also, she realized her vision of a women's center devoted to women's health research, particularly the study of diseases that disproportionately affect women of color. The Center for Women's Health Research was opened in October of 2006 and she serves as executive director. Over the past thirteen years, Dr. Montgomery Rice has been awarded more than \$13 million in grants for research in obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Montgomery Rice is a noted lecturer who has served as principal investigator in numerous clinical trials and has extensive expertise in female infertility and gynecologic and reproductive endocrinology. She has authored several articles and chapters in textbooks.

Also, she has received numerous awards and recognition as a leader in women's health, which includes being the first recipient of the Joy McCann Endowed Professor Award at Meharry Medical College. She has been featured in several articles, including "Medical Movers and Shakers" in the annual women's health section of the October 2006 issue of Ebony magazine.

Dr. Montgomery Rice continues to be active in numerous professional and community service organizations. She is a member of the Metropolitan Nashville Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.





*Georganna T. Sinkfield*



**POLITICS/GOVERNMENT**

Representative Georganna T. Sinkfield has been a civil servant to the people of Georgia for more than two decades. Elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1982, she is the senior-tenured woman in the legislature. Rep. Sinkfield chaired the Committee on Children and Youth for 14 years. She also chaired the Subcommittee of Appropriations on Human Development. She currently represents House District 60. Her committee assignments include Banks and Banking, Children and Youth and Insurance.

Having begun her political tenure with legislation that preserved programs for often-marginalized students, and later authoring legislation to create the Office of the Child Advocate, Rep. Sinkfield has established herself as a champion of legislative solutions for all Georgians, particularly children and youth. As chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Development, Rep. Sinkfield worked to ensure healthcare resources for senior citizens and Georgians with inadequate health insurance.

Rep. Sinkfield was appointed to serve on the Education Review Commission, which laid the groundwork for the Quality Basic Education Act (QBE). She chaired the Georgia Democratic Party Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee and has served on the Department of Education's Task Force on Violence and the Schools, and the governor's State Policy Council for Children and Families.

Rep. Sinkfield is widely recognized for her leadership and diligence. She was a recipient of the 2008 Trumpet Award. She was elected as the first female chair of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus (GLBC). She has chaired several major committees of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) and is a member of the Women's Forum of Georgia, Inc. She has received numerous other awards and recognitions and is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and Atlanta Regional Leadership.

Rep. Sinkfield has been recognized by many organizations for her compassionate and fearless stance to help improve the lives of children and their families and the sum total of her awards are too numerous to list. She is the recipient of the SCLC Drum Major for Justice Award in Government; NAACP Hall of Fame Award Lobbying Network; and the City of Atlanta Women Distinguished Service Award.

Rep. Sinkfield is a member of the East Point-College Park Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and has been a recipient of the sorority's Fortitude and Torch Award and their Pinnacle of Leadership Award. The South Carolina native earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Tennessee State University and attended Emory University School of Law.

Rep. Sinkfield resides in Atlanta with her husband, Richard. They have two children, and five grandchildren.



*Victoria Rowell*



**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

Victoria Rowell is founder of the Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan, an organization dedicated to providing arts and sports opportunities for children in the foster care system. Ms. Rowell started her career with a recurring role on the hit television series "The Cosby Show." Her television and film credits include "The Young and the Restless", "Diagnosis Murder", "Secret Sins of the Father" and "The Distinguished Gentleman". Ms. Rowell is an Emmy-nominated actress and the recipient of numerous NAACP Image Awards.

Born in Portland, Maine, Ms. Rowell was raised in foster care for her entire childhood. Under the auspices of the Ford Foundation, she received a full scholarship to the Cambridge School of Ballet in Massachusetts at the age of eight. As a young dancer, she flourished there and became a member of the American Ballet Theater family. In addition, she participated in an exchange program with the Julliard School of Music and Dance program.

In addition, Ms. Rowell has written a book and developed a documentary dedicated to the role models in her life. Both her book, *The Women Who Raised Me*, and her documentary, "The Mentor", highlight the important people in her life who have helped her achieve her successes.

In 1990, she founded The Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan (RFCPP). The mission of the organization is to give direct services in the areas of: fine arts, higher education, healthcare, financial literacy, reunification programs, cultural enrichment and resource family support.

She actively supports Americans for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, American Ballet Theater, The Child Welfare League of America, NAACP and Harvard School of Public Health. Since 1998, Ms. Rowell has been the National Spokesperson for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's direct service arm, Casey Family Services, established by Jim Casey, founder of UPS.

In recognition for her contribution in education and supporting foster children and her work for human rights and world peace, Ms. Rowell received the United Nations Association Award. Recently, she received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of Southern Maine and an honorary degree from Wheelock College in Boston — in recognition of her work in foster care and adoption. In addition, Ms. Rowell has been honored as a National Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She has participated in CBS network's annual "Home for the Holidays" special, which has honored foster children for the last seven years.



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*Women of Legend & Merit Awards  
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