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Yolanda T. Moses Honored with 2015 Franz Boas Award

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) is proud to present the 2015 Franz Boas award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology to Past President Dr. Yolanda T. Moses.

Dr. Moses was AAA president from 1995 to 1997 when development of the “RACE: Are We So Different?” project began. She chaired the 27-member, interdisciplinary, national advisory committee and remains a co-curator and co-principal investigator of the overall project, which includes three traveling exhibits, a book, an award-winning website, and downloadable materials for teachers, parents and the general public. The exhibits stop traveling this year after a seven-year tour to 55 U.S. cities.

Her research and writing on race and human diversity “have been pivotal in reawakening consideration of what we thought we know about the concept and the consequences,” said the colleagues at the University of California, Riverside who nominated Dr. Moses for the award. They further described her as a “respected scholar and educator; a skilled leader and administrator; a strong voice for social justice; an advocate for social change and for development of public policies that reduce the effects of inequality and enhance diversity in institutions, including universities and corporations.”

The Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology, formerly the Distinguished Service Award, was established in 1976. This award is presented annually by the association to its members whose careers demonstrate extraordinary achievements that have well served the anthropological profession. Service to the association is commonly recognized as are outstanding applications of anthropological knowledge to improving the human condition.

Great teachers of anthropology at all levels have received this award. Although the activities of the recipients will vary from year to year, all awardees have made many sacrifices, usually without personal reward and sometimes against personal safety. They have all used anthropology for the benefit of others.

Dr. Moses will be honored at the 114th AAA Annual Meeting in Denver.

The American Anthropological Association, dedicated to advancing human understanding and addressing the world’s most pressing problems since its founding in 1902, is the world’s largest professional anthropology organization.