
Freida J. Riley Teacher Award™ 2009 Nomination Sponsored by:

Christopher Columbus
Fellowship Foundation



and

West Virginia Freida J. Riley
Teacher Award Committee
Post Office Box 4157
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302
(304) 624-6881
(304) 624-4129 (fax)
spanishqueen86@aol.com

**in cooperation with the State of West Virginia,
the Harrison County Commission and
the YWCA of Harrison County, West Virginia**

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

FREIDA J. RILEY TEACHER AWARD™

OFFICIAL RULES FOR NOMINEES

The national **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award™** is sponsored by the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency, and the West Virginia Freida J. Riley Teacher Award Committee, in cooperation with the State of West Virginia, the Harrison County Commission and the YWCA of Harrison County, West Virginia.

PURPOSE: To identify and reward an American teacher who has overcome tremendous adversity, or made an enormous sacrifice in order to positively impact students.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Nominations are accepted for any certified classroom teacher presently teaching full-time (grades K-12) in an accredited U.S. public, private, or charter school—award will not be given posthumously—who:

- a. Is working with a physical disability; or
- b. Is teaching in an especially challenging educational environment; or
- c. Has performed a heroic act by making an exceptional, personal, or physical sacrifice while teaching.

NOMINATION PROCESS

1. Nominee may be nominated by a colleague, administrator, student, or parent.
2. Nominator must submit all Nomination forms and materials including:
 - a. Nomination Letter.
 - b. Basic Data Sheet.
 - c. Nominee Consent Signature form.
 - d. Biographical or Autobiographical Sketch (described below).
 - e. Letter(s) of Support (described below).
3. All Nomination forms must be received by the Committee at the address below, **no later than 5:00 p.m., EST, on Monday, March 2, 2009. Emailed, faxed or late Nominations will not be accepted.**

NOMINATION MATERIALS

1. Nomination Letter: Typed double-space, not to exceed three pages.
2. Basic Data Sheet: Complete the Basic Data Sheet provided by either typing or printing—do not use a separate paper.
3. Nominee Consent Signature: Sign the Nominee Consent and Agreement form on the next page.
4. Biographical or Autobiographical Sketch: A sketch of the Nominee typed in standard, non-script font 12 points or larger, not to exceed five (5) pages, double-spaced, on plain white paper, preferably narrative, no subheadings.
5. Letter(s) of Support: At least one letter, and no more than three letters, not to exceed one page each, single or double-spaced from colleagues, administrators, students or parents.
 - a. Each of the required materials must be on separate pages without dividers.
 - b. All materials must be unfolded and contained in a standard 8½" by 11" manila folder.
 - c. Do not use staples or paperclips. Write or type page numbers on each document as appropriate.
 - d. Do not include materials not listed such as vitae, lists of accomplishments, videos, DVDs or CDs.
 - e. **Nominations with materials missing or exceeding maximum length will be disqualified.**

SELECTION PROCESS

A national panel will review the Nomination materials. The winner will be selected based upon the qualification criteria and Nomination materials without regard to age, gender, race, or religion. **Any Nomination that does not meet the above stated qualifications, or does not include all required materials, will be disqualified.** The winner will be notified no later than Wednesday, April 8, 2009, by phone or mail.

NOMINEE CONSENT AND AGREEMENT

All Nominations and materials submitted for the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award™** and any reproductions made therefrom shall be solely, exclusively and entirely the property of the Foundation/Committee and shall not be returned.

The Foundation/Committee shall have the sole and exclusive right to use, and to permit others to use, the above stated Nomination and materials, including the Nominee's name, signature, likeness, and other biographical or autobiographical promotions, news releases and advertising in connection with either present or future programs or awards. All materials submitted become the property of the Foundation/Committee without any compensation to the Nominee. The Foundation/Committee reserves the right to change or cancel the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award** competition at any time at its full discretion. Signature below indicates consent and agreement with the above qualifications and restrictions.

I, _____ (please print or type name) understand and agree to all rules and qualifications for the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award** as stated on the "Official Rules for Nominees." I further agree to be available to attend the award presentation ceremony on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in West Virginia.

(Nominee Consent Signature)

(Date)

NOMINEE SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Return no later than Monday, March 2, 2009.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

The Nomination Letter is to be completed by a teacher, administrator or parent nominating the Nominee for the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award™**. The Nomination Letter must include the following data:

- Nominator's name
- Position/Title
- Relationship to Nominee
- Mailing address
- Telephone number (day/evening)
- E-mail and fax number (if available)
- Date

Please explain why you feel this teacher is worthy of the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award**. Describe how he or she:

1. Worked with a physical disability. Be as specific as possible concerning disability; length and degree of illness or handicap; challenges met relative to the handicap; significant changes or influence on students, school and/or community; or
2. Taught in an especially challenging educational environment. Describe the climate of the school and detail how, in light of a teaching situation that was less than desirable, this teacher overcame the socio-economic conditions of the school itself to motivate and inspire; or
3. Performed a heroic act while teaching. Describe the act; where it was done; how students/faculty or administrators were affected or saved by this unselfish act.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Submit at least one and no more than three Letters of Support with the teacher Nomination form. The letters may be written by colleagues, administrators, parents and/or students. A Letter of Support should include the following:

- Name of Nominee
- Name of supporter
- Relationship to Nominee
- Mailing address
- Telephone number (day/evening)
- E-mail and fax number (if available)
- Date

Please explain why you feel this teacher is worthy of the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award**. Describe how he or she:

1. Worked with a physical disability. Be as specific as possible concerning disability; length and degree of illness or handicap; challenges met relative to the handicap; significant changes or influence on students, school and/or community; or
2. Taught in an especially challenging educational environment. Describe the climate of the school and detail how, in light of a teaching situation that was less than desirable, this teacher overcame the socio-economic conditions of the school itself to motivate and inspire; or
3. Performed a heroic act while teaching. Describe the act; where it happened; how students/faculty or administrators were affected or saved by this unselfish act.

**Questions may be directed to Rosalyn Queen Alonso, Committee Chair,
Phone: (304) 624-6881, Fax: (304) 624-4129, Email: spanishqueen86@aol.com or
Judi Shellenberger, Foundation Executive Director, Phone: (315) 258-0090
Fax: (315) 258-0093, Email: judithmscolumbus@cs.com.**

RETURN TO: West Virginia Freida J. Riley Teacher Award Committee, Post Office Box 4157, Clarksburg, WV 26302
Federal Express or UPS: 305 Washington Avenue, Clarksburg, WV 26301

PERMISSION GRANTED TO DUPLICATE THIS OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

BACKGROUND

Miss Freida J. Riley was a science and math teacher from Coalwood, West Virginia, who, for most of her career, taught while suffering from Hodgkin's disease. Her impact upon her students is captured in the 1999 award-winning film *October Sky*, in which she is portrayed by actress Laura Dern. *October Sky* is based on the book *The Rocket Boys*, authored by one of Miss Riley's students, Homer Hickam. In the coal-mining town of Coalwood, Miss Riley inspired her students to overcome the limited opportunities of their era and environment to aspire to fulfill their dreams.

Written by Rosemary Carucci (now Rosemary C. Goss, Ph.D.) as yearbook editor during her senior year, the following Memorial Tribute is taken from the Big Creek High School yearbook after Miss Riley's death in 1969:

Big Creek was deeply saddened by the death of Miss Freida Riley August 5, 1969. She had taught math, chemistry, and physics here for ten years. Her life should not be measured in terms of years, however; though brief, her life was one of accomplishment. She strived for and achieved excellence as a student, teacher and person.

Miss Riley ranked first in the 1955 graduating class of Big Creek and first in the 1959 class of Concord College. She continued her studies in math at Ohio State University and West Virginia University. As a teacher, Miss Riley impressed and inspired her students with continued success.

Former students have much praise for her. "Miss Riley taught because she wanted her students to learn." "She made people want to learn; she helped one understand the value of education." "In all my years of education I have met very few teachers her equal in their devotion to their students."

Her students and co-workers were also touched by the warmth of her personality. "She was a combination of intelligence, wit, compassion, empathy, and love, a rare combination." One graduate might have expressed the feelings of all those who knew her, "I feel that my life has been greatly enriched by having her as a teacher and as a friend."

Miss Riley did enrich the lives of many people. These people will long remember the influence of a devoted teacher and an inspiring individual. The greatest tribute that we can give is to emulate the principles by which she lived: a deep faith in God, the courage to face difficulties, a sincere concern for others, the unselfish quality to give of herself, a respect for knowledge, and the desire for excellence.



FREIDA J. RILEY TEACHER AWARD

The recipient of the **Freida J. Riley Teacher Award** will be honored at an award ceremony presented by the West Virginia Freida J. Riley Teacher Award Committee, the State of West Virginia, the Harrison County Commission and the YWCA of Harrison County, West Virginia. The recipient will receive the following:

1. Recognition—Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in West Virginia.
2. Airfare for the recipient and spouse or one companion.
3. One hotel room.
4. Meals for the recipient and spouse or one companion.
5. Transportation to and from the award ceremony, hotel, and meals for winner and one other person. Airline, ground transportation, hotel, and meal arrangements will be made according to Federal government regulations.
6. The \$10,000 award check may be used as the recipient wishes. Awards, prizes and paid expenses may be taxable income to the winner. All tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winner. All Federal, State, and local laws and regulations apply.
7. Any room upgrades, room service, phone calls, and changes in airline reservations are the responsibility of the recipient.

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FREIDA J. RILEY TEACHER AWARD™ 2009 BASIC DATA SHEET

Personal Information:

Name (Last, First, Middle) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Social Security Number: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Data:

Name of Building: _____

Building Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
 State: _____

Subjects Taught: _____

Grade Level Currently Teaching: _____

Years In Present District: _____ Total Years Teaching: _____ School Location: Inner City Suburban Rural Other _____

Total Enrollment: _____ Grades: _____ School Type: Public Private Charter

Do you belong to: _____ NEA _____ AFT _____ Other? This information will be used for media purposes.

Previous Experience:

DATES	DISTRICT	CITY/STATE/ZIP	POSITION
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Professional Preparation:

DATES	INSTITUTION	CITY/STATE/ZIP	DEGREE
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

The information on this form and in the accompanying material is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

 (Nominee's Signature)

 (Date)

NOMINEE SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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