

April 21, 2018

Juanita Sims Doty, Ed.D
President, Juanita Sims Doty Foundation
and Project Director, A-TEAAM
1532 Lakeside Drive
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Dr. Doty & Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African-American Males (A-TEAAM),

I can't believe that it's been a year since your last annual awards' ceremony. It is always rewarding for me to hear of the wonderful contributions you are making to our communities and society at-large. The A-TEAAM Program represents some of the best ideals this country has to offer, and its goal to inspire young African American males to be productive and successful adults, especially advances our communities of color. I am grateful that you continue to recognize how important the program is to me and for the invitation to join you. While I am unable to be with you in person, my support for the outstanding work you do will always be there.

I also would like to congratulate and acknowledge Kimberly McCullough Smash, MD for the many contributions she provides to the citizens of Mississippi through her outstanding medical practice, community service and profound commitment to the health and well-being of families. Dr Smash is a leading provider of family healthcare in the Metro Jackson Area; and she uses her expert training to care for her patients, to volunteer at local free clinics, to provide school physicals and much more. She is a pillar in the community and her thoughtful and consistent dedication to her hometown's prosperity is well recognized and noteworthy. Following her medical training, she returned to her beloved Jackson to foster the concept of "putting ones heart in their work," which she does with great abundance. She embodies the professional acumen and compassion which capture the essence of the A-TEAAM, "Leading, Serving, and Caring." On a personal note, I have known Dr. Smash since the days of her early career development, and it is a blessing to celebrate her achievements as she receives the 2018 Yvonne T. Maddox HEAAL Award. Kimberly, "You are an inspiration to us all." I am honored that my name is attached to your "good works."

Colleagues and friends, please accept my gratitude for the exceptional, meaningful work that you do for the state of Mississippi, its boys and girls and families. As always, I am proud to consider myself as a part of the Mississippi community of effort, and will continue to work alongside all of you to improve the health of children, youth, families and especially communities of color.

Sincerely,
Yvonne T. Maddox, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences