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Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler Wins 2016 Demco Award

The winner of this year's Demco/ALA Black Caucus Award for Excellence in Librarianship is Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler, an associate professor at the University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences. A Birmingham, Alabama native, Dr. Chandler has been a mainstay at UNT, holding a professor post with the school since 1993 according to her LinkedIn profile.

The joint Demco/BCALA award recognizes significant accomplishments that promote the status of African American librarians in the profession, or the development and implementation of resources and services for the African American community. Demco presents the winning librarian with a \$500 check and a commemorative statue, and makes an additional \$500 donation to the BCALA Scholarship Fund in the winner's name. BCALA and Demco have teamed up to bestow this award annually since 1994, when BCALA founder, the late Dr. E.J. Josey, received the honor.

"Dr. Chandler is the ultimate library professional exemplifying excellence and commitment," said Denyvetta Davis, president of BCALA.

In addition to teaching and research excellence, Dr. Chandler has distinguished herself as a professional due to her thorough and successful track record of winning grants for educational training and diversifying the library science field. Chandler is the director of several satellite student cohorts from UNT's LIS program, including UNT's "Library Education for the U.S.- Affiliated Pacific" (LEAP) cohort, which is the first distance program outside of the continental U.S. for UNT's College of Information.

Chandler noted being pleasantly surprised upon hearing her biography read by Demco director of library engagement and solutions Janet Nelson at the awards ceremony during the American Library Association's annual conference in Orlando, Florida. This year's winner was not notified prior to the ceremony that she would receive the award.

"I'm floating on air from all the congratulations and good wishes that I have received from friends, colleagues, classmates, and graduates; including more than 121 comments and 325 likes on Facebook," Chandler said about receiving the award. "I can only say what my friends in Hawaii have taught me to say: Mahalo nui loa (Thank you very much)."

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