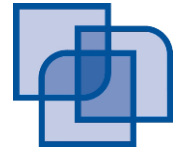




2017 Community Leader Media Award



Al-Nisa Banks

Al-Nisa is the owner, editor, and publisher of the Buffalo Challenger, where she has worked for thirty-one years to give the African American community in Buffalo a voice on the issues that affect them and this city. The Challenger is one of the largest African American newspapers in New York State, and Al-Nisa is committed to preserving it as an institution for future generations.

Al-Nisa helped found and develop the curriculum for the first Freedom School in the City back in the early 70's. A former reporter for the Courier Express, she is a regular voice for advocacy and change on local radio and television, and was named a Citizen of the Year by the Buffalo News Magazine for her work on behalf of others.

Al-Nisa works to not just inform, but to empower her readers, and her skills as an editor, reporter, and organizer have garnered her much recognition in the media world. She uses the Challenger to insert the human impact into the larger discussion of an issue, and she highlights many of the positive or behind the scenes events and partnerships that go on in the African American Community. She is a regular sponsor of events and forums, and has inspired thousands of her readers to actively engage in making this a better city for all.

For her commitment to giving voice to those who are often overlooked and her work to empower her readers, the NFJC is proud to present Al-Nisa Banks with the 2017 Community Leader Media Award.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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