



TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Executive Director Beverly Watts Recipient of Frances Dancy Hooks Award

On, September 20, 2014, the Tennessee State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) honored Executive Director Beverly Watts of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) with the Frances Dancy Hooks Award.

Women in NAACP (WIN) have long been at the forefront of the NAACP. The WIN program addresses educational health, social, political, economic and other civil rights issues impacting the lives of women and children.

The Frances Dancy Hooks Award recognizes women who have made and are making pioneering or significant contributions to their communities through their professional careers or through volunteerism and advocacy work. The award was presented at the 68th Annual Tennessee State Convention WIN (Women in the NAACP) Breakfast.

Beverly Watts has been the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission since 2007. She has more than 30 years of experience in civil rights enforcement and education in the public and private sectors. She has served as Chair of Women Executives in State Government and currently serves on the boards of Cable Nashville, YWCA of Middle Tennessee, and the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. She is a life member of the NAACP.

She leads a staff of 29 at the Commission which is responsible for enforcing the TN Human Rights Act (THRA) which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation and coordinates the State of Tennessee's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Compliance. The THRA prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, religion, creed, sex, disability and familiar status in housing. The commission receives, mediates, investigates and when necessary litigates allegation of discrimination and provides education to employers, housing providers and providers of public accommodations.

For more information, call 1-800-251-3589 or visit the THRC's website at www.tn.gov/humanrights.

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