

Carver Award Recipient: Judith A. Summers-Gates

Born in Hazleton, PA and raised in Philadelphia, Judith Summers-Gates attended Drexel University where she received her BS degree in Unified Science, a combination of Chemistry, Biology and Physics, in 1990.



Ms. Summers-Gates was employed full time at Department of Defense's (DOD) Personnel Support Center from 1983 to 1988 as a Physical Science Technician performing physical and chemical testing on virtually every commodity used by the armed forces and their dependents. Some of her most high profile work included testing for NASA & the space shuttle program.

After DOD, she moved to the FDA Philadelphia District Laboratory where she has been an analytical chemist for 21 years and has distinguished herself as an expert in the isolation and identification of colorants and additives in foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical products. Ms. Summers-Gates graduated from the prestigious Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Leadership Development Program in 1999. Her commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion were recognized with a national Equal Employment Opportunity award by FDA in 2000.

Judy Summers-Gates has been profiled in several American Chemical Society (ACS) publications including: "Opportunities in Science: Working Chemists with Disabilities" (1996) and she is a frequently requested speaker for "Career Days" and on the ACS Tour Speakers circuit. She has also appeared on local television

and radio programs to interpret FDA regulations and share health information with the general public in a readily understandable way.

Ms. Summers-Gates is a founding member of the Joint Subcommittee on Diversity and is serving as Chair of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD).

She served as Chair of ACS Philadelphia Local Section in 2010 (5600 members/4th largest in the country) and is part of the "Kids in Chemistry", "Chemist in the Classroom" and "Chemistry Ambassador" programs. Ms. Summers-Gates annually serves as National Chemistry Week coordinator and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day coordinator. She frequently engages in outreach and demonstration activities with participants of all ages.

Her other activities and affiliations include Career Peer Mentor to young chemists, Mentor to ACS Minority Scholars and encouraging girls to enter STEM with the PA STEM Girls Collaborative. Ms. Summers-Gates recently became a member of the White House Disability Discussion Group and is a former member of the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities and an Advisory Council Member for the PA School for the Deaf. She is also a

member of the National Science Foundation Advisory Group to Broaden Participation of Underrepresented Minorities in STEM. She has served as a judge at the Carver Science Fair for more than 10 years.

The United Nations declared International Year of Chemistry in 2011, Ms. Summers-Gates and ACS-CWD partnered with the Perkins and Hadley Schools for the Blind to outreach to more than 11,000 students in 110 countries and with the Easter Seals Summer Camps in the U.S. to ensure that persons with disabilities were included in the hands on experiments and celebrations - the first such effort on this scale.

We congratulate Ms. Summers-Gates for being the 2012 Carver Award recipient.



Science Festival

The Philadelphia Science Festival is an opportunity for Philadelphia's schools, universities, cultural institutions and research centers to come together as a single, united voice to put science in the spotlight. The 2012 Festival will be April 20-29 on the Ben Franklin Parkway with an outdoor Carnival on April 21st showcasing fun and interactive science. For more information on how to get involved, go to: http://www.philasciencefestival.org/get_involved.



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