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July 8, 2024

To: Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award

Selection Committee

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Uzama Price for the Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award. It is with immense appreciation and admiration that I present her candidacy, as Dr. Price epitomizes the spirit of this prestigious award through her unparalleled dedication, compassion, and contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Dr. Price is a tireless advocate, clinician, administrator, author, international speaker, and an exceptionally generous volunteer. Her life's work is a testament to her unwavering commitment to creating a kinder, more inclusive world for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her impact on countless lives is both profound and far-reaching, and her approach is always inclusive, solution-oriented, and imbued with kindness. The generosity of her spirit and energy is truly awe-inspiring.

As a board-certified behavior analyst and scholar-practitioner, Dr. Price has over 17 years of experience in the behavioral health field, serving children and adults with intellectual disabilities and co-occurring mental illness in North Carolina. Originally from Jamaica, Dr. Price has lived in the United States for over thirty years, enriching our communities with her diverse experiences and profound insights.

Dr. Price's educational background is extensive and impressive. She holds a doctorate in Education and has completed post-doctoral work in Psychology - Applied Analysis. Currently, she is furthering her expertise in clinical mental health counseling at Liberty University. Her academic journey also includes a notable tenure as a research associate on the Developing Gratitude Study at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Price's contributions extend beyond academia and clinical practice. She develops training content that supports workforce development efforts in Canada, Jamaica, North Carolina, and across the United States. Her training topics are diverse and critical, including sexual health promotion, supported decision-making, cultural awareness, criminal justice and intellectual disability, trauma and intellectual disability, human trafficking and disability, as well as resilience and post-traumatic growth. Her efforts ensure that direct support professionals are well-equipped to provide compassionate and effective care.

In 2021, Dr. Price was honored with the NADD Member of the Year Award. In 2022, she presented at multiple significant conferences, including the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities October conference and NADD's July and December conferences. She serves as the co-chair of the Specialist Committee for NADD and is an advisory council member for Elevatus Training, the premier provider of educational content for sexuality education for the IDD population. Her advocacy for children and their families is tireless, and she recently published a book with co-author Dr. Dan Baker titled "The Good Stuff: Practical Positive Supports for People with Intellectual Disabilities & Co-occurring Mental Illness."

Dr. Price's extensive volunteer experience further underscores her dedication. She has served on the Elevatus Training Advisory Council, as an examiner for the NADD-DDS certification program, and on the NADD Specialist Committee creating processes and overseeing the work of the committee. Her past roles include facilitating the Autism Society Greensboro's Supper Club, serving as Board Chair and Board Secretary for the Randolph Family Health Care Center at Merce Clinic, and advocating as a Guardian Ad Litem in the 18th Judicial District Juvenile Court. Her service also includes advisory roles with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in High Point and the NC START Advisory Council.

Dr. Uzama Price embodies the qualities that define the Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award. Her lasting contributions have significantly improved opportunities, broken down barriers, and enhanced the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is my honor to nominate such a deserving individual who truly exemplifies excellence and compassion in service to others.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at jfarr@thenadd.org.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Farr, CEO