Professor Emeritus Quintard Taylor Awarded Robert Gray Medal by Washington State Historical Society

Submitted by Eleanor Mahoney on September 1, 2017 - 12:26pm

Professor Emeritus Quintard Taylor has been awarded the 2017 Robert Gray Medal by the Washington State Historical Society. The prestigious prize is given in recognition of Taylor's distinguished career as a professor of history and his far-reaching commitment to researching, preserving, and promoting the history of African Americans in the Pacific Northwest.

First presented in 1968, the Robert Gray Medal is the highest honor bestowed by the Washington State Historical Society. It recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions to Pacific Northwest history through demonstrated excellence in one or more of the following areas: teaching, writing, research, historic preservation, and service to local historical societies.

Award-winning Publications

2000. In 2010, the University of Washington Press released *Dr. Sam: The Autobiography of Sam Kelly*, which Taylor co-authored with the late university administrator and career army officer.


**Groundbreaking Digital and Public Scholarship**

In 2004, he created an online website resource center for African American history now called BlackPast.org ([www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org)). It includes over 3,000 pages of information with contributions by over 400 scholars. Millions of people from around the world visit the site each year, making it one of the leading global resources for the study of African American history.

Taylor has been very active in supporting public and community history in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. His board memberships have included: HistoryLink, the Northwest African American Museum, and the Idaho Black History Museum. He was also a founding member of the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas.

The awards ceremony will take place during the annual meeting of the Washington State Historical Society on Saturday, September 23, at noon.