The John R. Larkins Award was established in 1998 to recognize human service and is presented annually at the State Employees Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance Program. This year, the Award will honor a State employee whose work ethic goes above and beyond and whose self-determination promotes and encourages the same in others.

Please include:

A narrative describing how an action or event by the nominee improved human and race relations at work or in the community; the nominator’s relationship to nominee; and supporting documents from colleagues, community leaders, etc.

Nomination forms and supporting documents are due November 30, 2015.

Contact Us

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The John R. Larkins Award

Nomination Form:

Nominee: _______________________________________________
Agency/University: __________________________________
Position: _______________________________________________
Years of Service in State Government: ____________
Nominee Home Address: ______________________________
___________________________________________________________
Daytime Telephone: _________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________
Fax: ____________________________________________________
Nominator: ____________________________________________
Agency/University: __________________________________
Fax: __
Daytime Telephone: _____________________________
Email: ________________________________________________

Dr. John R. Larkins

Dr. John Rodman Larkins was born December 24, 1913, in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he attended public school and graduated from Williston High School. Under the National Youth Administration Program, Larkins attended Shaw University, where he earned a B.A. in Sociology. He later earned his M.A. at Atlanta University's School of Social Work and completed his Doctorate at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Dr. Larkins worked paving roads and in the garment industry in New York City. He was a welfare worker in Warren County, NC; and, in 1942, he became a consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Welfare (later named the Department of Human Resources), a position he held until 1962. From 1963 to 1973, Dr. Larkins served as Associate Director of the State Probation Commission; as the Director of Youth Development at the Department of Correction from 1973-74; and was appointed special assistant to Governor James B. Hunt for minority affairs in 1977, serving until his death in 1980.

Dr. Larkins is the author of several articles that explore race, community, leadership and sociology. He taught part-time at St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, was a member of several professional sociological associations, and received numerous honors for his contributions to making our state and nation stronger through human and race relations and the understanding of sociology.

Dr. Larkins' legacy in North Carolina is one of hope, trust, hard work and dedication. He believed in his fellow man and worked to improve the lives of others in every aspect of his life.