



Thomas Samuels, a nationally recognized advocate for the rights of Black Deaf individuals was a distinguished honoree at this year's NYC Disability Awareness Month event that was hosted by; NYC Comptroller, William C. Thompson, Jr., the Disabilities Network of New York City (DNNCY), YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities, and Special Citizen Futures Unlimited.

Mr. Samuels, who retired from LaGuardia Community College, spent 14 years at LaGuardia's Program for Deaf Adults. During his tenure, he served as Assistant to the Director, American Sign Language program coordinator, Media Specialist, Lab Technician, and newsletter editor for the program. In 2002, Program for Deaf Adults established the *Thomas Samuels Scholarship* to recognize the academic achievements of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Mr. Samuels has served on the advisory board of several city and state agencies and was President, Vice president, Board Chairman, and Chapter Representative of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He is a member of the National Alliance of Black interpreters (NAOBI).

He also served on several advisory councils and committees, including former NYC Mayor David Dinkins' Advisory Council for the Disabled, New York State Advisory Board for the American with Disabilities Act, and the New York State office of Vocational Educational Service for Individuals with Disabilities.

Mr. Samuels is a Black Deaf history researcher and has given numerous presentations to deaf and hearing organizations in New York and throughout the nation.