

THE NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



For the past two decades the Children's Environmental Health Network has been working to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and to promote a healthier environment. As is our tradition, each year we recognize national leaders whose advocacy is making a difference in the lives of children. As part of our 20th anniversary celebration we decided to expand this tradition by identifying a young person who deserved to be recognized for their exceptional environmental health leadership.

The Board of the Children's Environmental Health Network would like to announce that we will continue the tradition of recognizing youth leadership by creating a special award that will be named in honor of our Executive Director; it will be called the ***Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award***.

ABOUT NSE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon serves at the Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. Ms. Witherspoon has directed and been personally involved in the oversight and organization of CEHN's Strategic Plan to serve as the "Voice for Children's Environmental Health" in the nation's capital for the past 12 years. She serves as a key spokes person for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country. She is a leader in the field of children's environmental health, serving on the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency and is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable. Ms. Witherspoon is a past member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and past Coordinator of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences Public Interest Partners. She is a member of the Friends of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health and a former Executive Board Member for the American Public Health Association. Ms. Witherspoon has a BS in Biology and a Master's in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health, from The George Washington University School of Public Health.

ABOUT NSE, THE PERSON

In addition to all that Nse does in the workplace, she is a wife and mother. The family that she has formed with Sikarl and the 3 kids that they are shepherding through life - Ajani, Adia and Ahian – is beautiful. Nse is a soccer mom...and the coach of the soccer team. Nse is a PTA mom...and the president of the PTA.

So, it is for Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, the amazing and inspiring leader in children's environmental health and for Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, the wife, mother, community leader and great human being, that the Children's Environmental Health Network names this Youth Leadership Award, the ***Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award***.