For Immediate Release

Physical Therapy Faculty Member Honored

University Park, Illinois, October 27, 2011 – Dr. Robin D. Washington, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy at Governors State University (GSU), received the Sylvia Walker Education Award from the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC).

The award is named after the late Dr. Sylvia Walker, a professor, researcher, and director of the Center for Socioeconomic and Disability Policy Studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C., the first federal research and training center focused on minority issues and disability. Walker, who herself suffered from a visual impairment, served as a long-time advocate for multicultural issues related to rehabilitation education.

"We're extremely proud that Dr. Washington received the Sylvia Walker Education Award," noted Rebecca Wojcik, PT, Ed.D., GCS, Chair of GSU’s Physical Therapy Department. "Dr. Washington clearly exemplifies the criteria upon which this award is based: excellence in rehabilitation education, commitment to student learning and development, commitment to multiculturalism, and the ability to serve as an exemplary role model and mentor."

"I am so honored to receive an award named after Sylvia Walker," Washington said. "Dr. Walker increased awareness of issues related to people with disabilities. She helped break down both attitudinal and architectural barriers for people with disabilities so they could gain full participation within society."

Washington was presented with the Sylvia Walker Education Award at the annual NAMRC conference in Atlanta, GA.

A native of Chicago, Washington joined the physical therapy faculty at GSU in August, 2010.

"I have a great appreciation and respect for the physical therapy faculty at GSU," Washington said. "Their expertise and commitment to student learning, competent practice, research, community involvement, and cultural diversity are reasons why I decided to join the faculty. Membership on this faculty has truly been an honor," Washington stated.

The NAMRC is a professional association dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in rehabilitation research, education, and practice.