CAS Director Search – call for nominations
November 7, 2022

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) has opened a call for applications and/or nominations in an internal search for the position of Director of the Center for African Studies (CAS). The Director will provide a compelling vision and leadership across the OSU campus for the wide range of activities dealing with Africa Studies as related to teaching, research, outreach, and relationships with those countries; develop programs & activities commensurate with this vision by undertaking annual, medium-term & long-term planning; appoint a CAS Advisory Council; represent actively the African programs on campus, within the community & state, nationally & internationally; administer the CAS office, personnel, programs, activities, grants and report writing; seek outside funding for program activities; participate in meetings; link with the appropriate units across campus. The Director will report to OIA’s Associate Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs. For more information on CAS, please visit https://cas.osu.edu/.

Scope of the position:

The Director for the Center for African Studies sets the vision and provides leadership for Ohio State's campus-wide African Studies activities in teaching, research, outreach, and linkages with that region of the world. As the center’s leader, the director is responsible for:

- Developing a strategic plan for the Center
- Administering the CAS office, personnel, programs, activities, grants, and report writing.
  - Hiring, supervising, evaluating, and managing the center staff
  - Developing programs and activities commensurate with a vision of providing excellence in academic engagements in the area of African Studies
- Seeking external funding for program activities by preparing grant proposals including but not limited to Title VI, and Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships
- Leading the stewardship of Owomoyela Yoruba Studies Endowment by seeking innovative programs to be funded through the endowment.
- Under the guidance of the associate provost, collaborate with the other area studies center directors in making area studies programs an academically crucial component of internationalization at Ohio State.
- Seek collaboration opportunities with Ohio State’s Department of African American and African Studies, Global One Health Initiative, Global Water Institute, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and so forth. Explore opportunities for curriculum enhancement.
- Through written and verbal communication, represent the Center at meetings with students, staff, faculty, campus administrators, teachers, community groups, and visitors from academic institutions, embassies, and other organizations.
- Produce and disseminate information about Africa-focused activities and resources, including those sponsored by CAS, other units on campus, and in the larger community; assist in
identifying appropriate faculty, students, or staff for media interviews, presentations, or other events.

Qualifications:

The Director for the Center for African Studies must be a tenured faculty at Ohio State with strong expertise and knowledge in African Studies; have some familiarity with US Department of Education Title VI grant programs; knowledgeable of the importance of language-learning for area experts; involved in international initiatives, including international research, international education, and international organizations; be collaborative, and a team player with the ability to build bridges among colleagues and disciplines across campus; experience working at Ohio State with knowledge of the university landscape, and be innovative and effective in promoting the mission of the center. Must have strong interpersonal skills to develop and build a community and to reach out, ability to contribute as a member of a team, and experience working with and managing staff.

Terms of appointment:

The director of CAS receives 50% release time from the faculty duties in the form of course releases, an administrative attachment of $3,000 paid out over the nine months of the academic year, and 1/9 of the academic year salary for administering the center over the summer. The Director will ideally serve until August 14, 2026, starting on January 3, 2023, if possible.

To indicate interest:

Interested applicants should submit a CV, and a 2-3 page letter of interest outlining their vision for the Center, specific goals, and leadership style. In addition, please provide the names of three references that can speak to your leadership skills. All questions, nominations, and applications should be sent to Fernando Unzueta at unzueta.1@osu.edu no later than November 23, 2022. Appointment is contingent on all applicable Ohio State policies and procedures.