



Dear Claremont Colleges faculty,

The Office of Black Student Affairs, a student affairs unit within the Claremont University Consortium is placing renewed emphasis upon service to all seven Claremont Colleges. We would especially like to welcome faculty of African descent as partners and allies in our work to serve, support and educate students, and plan to accomplish this in ways we anticipate will benefit faculty, students and staff.

OBSA has grown under new leadership to develop several successful initiatives as the office worked to obtain stability, increase visibility and develop and sustain a strong and intentional series of yearly programming. Our current mission and year at-a-glance can be reviewed in the pages of our enclosed newsletter for faculty and staff. An important component of our work involves a commitment to academic excellence, interdisciplinary learning and broadening access to resources. **Furthermore, students of African descent at The Claremont Colleges are particularly interested in interacting with Black faculty, and are challenged and often frustrated by low numbers of faculty of color at their institutions. As a result, they have expressed a need for opportunities to engage with faculty of African descent in academia.**

In response, OBSA plans to define the parameters of student-faculty engagement in several ways. Here are a few initiatives through which OBSA is interested in partnering with Claremont Colleges faculty of African descent:

- **Highlight faculty research**, publications and other scholarship via brown bag discussions, sponsored lectures, or faculty-student mixers, including but not limited to topics around intersections of culture, history, race and multiple identities that exist within Black communities.
- **Share and raise interest around courses**, seminars, and discussions among student populations of African descent. For example, we plan to create a course listing of Black professors to display on our website and send to our students. We would request the same information you submit to the registrar for each semester you teach.
- **Invite Black faculty as discussion guests** at the annual OBSA Mentorship/First Year Retreat
- **Invite Black faculty as guest speakers** for our large anchor events occurring during Black Graduation, MLK Commemoration, Black History Month and Womens' History Month.
- **Assist faculty in sharing information with students** regarding research internships and other student-focused opportunities within academic departments.
- OBSA's Arts Engagement program is developing as a co-curricular series with specific learning outcomes for student participants. The program has opportunities for **strategic co-**

# CLAREMONT UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Page 2

**sponsorships where we can highlight the work of faculty** in the arts and share opportunities with students for campus arts-related projects and initiatives.

These are some of the ways OBSA is interested in both supporting faculty members' scholarship and raising interest from students about the possibilities for learning inside and outside of the classroom. If you or your colleagues are interested in pursuing any of the aforementioned potential partnerships or to subscribe to OBSA's news and announcements, please **complete our quick faculty involvement survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDM23CV>**

Thank you and we encourage you to review the enclosed information about OBSA's initiatives.

Best,

Lydia Middleton  
Dean and Director, Office of Black Student Affairs  
Claremont University Consortium  
Serving the Claremont Colleges  
[lydiam@cuc.claremont.edu](mailto:lydiam@cuc.claremont.edu)