

# The National Council for Black Studies

The National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) is the leading organization of Black Studies professionals in the world. For 41 years its members have been at the forefront of driving the development of Africology/Black Studies as a respected academic discipline. NCBS is committed to putting theory into practice which has led it to the front lines of community issues throughout the African world based on a guiding philosophy that education should engender both academic excellence and social responsibility.

NCBS was established in 1975 by African American students and scholars who recognized the need to formalize the study of the African world experience, as well as expand and strengthen academic units and community programs devoted to this endeavor. NCBS was formed in 1975 out of the substantial need for a national stabilizing force in the developing Africology/Black Studies. Since the late 1960's, American education has been profoundly affected by the emergence of Africology/Black Studies. Its impact on the broader educational establishment is due to the holistic and multidisciplinary approach taken by Africology/Black Studies efforts that has become the intellectual extension of that movement. The National Council for Black Studies is committed to academic excellence and social responsibility.

Thus, NCBS seeks to: Facilitate through consultation and other services, the recruitment of Black scholars for all levels of teaching and research in universities and colleges; assist in the creation and implementation of multicultural education programs and materials for K-12 schools and higher education institutions; promote scholarly African-centered research on all aspects of the African world experience; increase and improve informational resources on Pan-African life and culture to be made available to the general public; provide professional advice to policymakers in education, government and community development; maintain international linkages among Africology/Black Studies scholars; and work for the empowerment of African people.

NCBS publishes a professional refereed journal dedicated to scholarship and research about people of African descent. The journal (formerly known as *The Afrocentric Scholar*) was renamed *The International Journal of African Studies* in 1995. IJAS is a bi-annual publication that publishes essays presenting original scholarship that systematically examines aspects of the past and present experiences, characteristics, achievements, issues, and concerns of people of African descent worldwide.

The *Voice of Black Studies* (published bi-annually) is the official newsletter of NCBS which serves to highlight the activities of the organization and its members. NCBS sponsors an annual conference which provides a forum for the dissemination of scholarship and a venue for mentoring students who wish to pursue a career in Africology/Black Studies.

NCBS also host The Africana Studies Administrative Institute to provide new chairs and directors of Africology/Black Studies with the multi-faceted nature of administering academic units. In addition to a rigorous examination of the basic philosophical and bureaucratic challenges that confront the leadership of the discipline, attention is paid to issues such as sexual harassment, affirmative action and other relevant matters.

NCBS has an honor society titled "Ankh Maat Wedjau", a non-secret, non-profit organization which promotes scholarly study, research, publication and other scholarly activity in Africology/Black Studies for students at academic institutions, and among academic professionals in the field of Africology/Black Studies.

NCBS also house the Community Education and Civic Engagement Grants Program, a program made possible as a result of the generous contributions of federal employees through the National Black United Fund/Federation of Charities (NBUFC) to award program grants to support projects in which Africology/Black Studies knowledge and skills are made available to local communities that involve the active engagement of faculty and students with community organizations or residents, and special preference is given to projects providing opportunities for students to obtain practical experience in assisting communities in problem solving by applying knowledge gained in Africology/Black Studies courses. Faculty affiliated with Africology/Black Studies units that are current NCBS institutional and individual members are eligible to apply for the grants.

Since 1985, NCBS has been very active in the development of a meaningful and holistic Africology/Black Studies curriculum, thus a curriculum model was developed by a National Curriculum Committee chaired by Dr. William Little; the model established new curricular standards for undergraduate programs and an ongoing consultation with educators at all levels to establish standards for K-12 and graduate studies.

The National Council for Black Studies is also actively committed to the creation and maintenance of a worldwide forum for the advancement of knowledge of history, culture, welfare, and life possibilities of people of African descent. Hence, NCBS provides a forum for scholars, researchers and community leaders (within and outside the discipline) to share information, network, and create strategies for the development of Africology/Black Studies.

The National Council for Black Studies (<http://www.ncbsonline.org>) is housed at the Africana Studies Department of the University of Cincinnati (P.O. Box 210370) in Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0370, the phone number is 513-556-0785, and the email is: [info@ncbsonline.org](mailto:info@ncbsonline.org)