



African Diaspora Consortium

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The African Diaspora International Research International Research Network (IRN): The Compelling Case for Enhancing Global Research Exchange Across the African Diaspora

WERA Annual Report 2020

We have been pleased and honored to have had our proposal accepted to develop an International Research Network on the African Diaspora. We have, from the beginning, taken our responsibilities seriously, with every intention of meeting our important responsibilities while highlighting WERA's values and goals. We have been pleased with our outcomes that we are sharing in our 2020 Annual Report. However, given the paucity and lack of focus on the importance of research on and across the African Diaspora, we recognize that there is more work to be done. As such, we are requesting an additional three-year extension of our African Diaspora—International Research Network (AD-IRN). We think this will be beneficial for our work and for WERA to demonstrate their recognition and value of the paucity of data on the African Diaspora.

As a demonstration of the seriousness of our commitment to our work and WERA's goals, below is a review of our work and accomplishments over the last three-years with an update for 2020.

Scholarship Partnerships

In keeping with WERA's goal of ensuring scholarly opportunities for emerging and senior scholars and practitioners across countries, we have continued to work in partnership with

scholars across ranks as well as graduate students, ensuring that no individual's or country's voice is more important than another. The attached chart demonstrates the structure of our work highlighting some of our partners by region/country and is inclusive of emerging, senior scholars, graduate students and practitioners.

The way we have approached our AD-IRN is that we hold frequent communications with our colleagues via email or Zoom conversations, with specifically scheduled biannual planning discussions. We plan and implement research activities and possibilities based on recommendations from our scholars. In our role as co-leaders, we work to implement recommendations from our IRN. As examples, our conference participation and research plans are demonstrated in our Scholarship Production.

Highlighting AD Research and Best Practices Across the African Diaspora (Historic AP Seminar with African Diaspora (AD) Content)

The best example of the outcome of our work is, working in partnership with colleagues across countries, we have developed the first ever African topic/theme in the entirety of the College Board's portfolio of Advanced Placement (AP) courses (see attached article). We chose to fill the void in the College Board's portfolio of courses with African Diaspora Content. As such, it was crucial to work in partnership across countries so that the Content would be reflective of multiple perspectives and voices, not just African Americans.

We have continued to highlight and demonstrate the importance of the interconnection of research and best practices with our teachers and artists playing crucial roles. Our teachers, scholars, and artists have worked together on updating our historic Advanced Placement (AP) Seminar with African Diaspora Content.

We have worked with practitioners across countries to ensure that we are offering authentic AD content. For example, we have worked with two artists in Argentina who developed the first video on Afro-Bolivians. That video is now included as an important content resource in our Seminar. We have also worked with a colleague who works with SKY News in the UK who shared all of their videos on specials they produced and screened on African Diasporan communities in different countries across Europe that we have also included in the content to be included in the Seminar with teachers and students. Each year, we have captured the highlights of our work in our created AD-IRN Newsletter, another way for us to communicate with our partners and highlight our goals and accomplishments, in the links here: fall 2019 (<https://mailchi.mp/fa8fda5fe94b/african-diaspora-consortium-fall-2019?e=9af5d34610>); fall 2018 ([AD-IRN Fall Newsletter](#)).

Scholarship Production

As an important goal to address the paucity of research on and across the African Diaspora, we have a forthcoming Special Issue on the African Diaspora titled, *Education Across the African Diaspora: Historical Contributions, Contemporary Challenges, and New Narratives*, that

includes junior and senior scholar voices and countries across the African Diaspora, including Africa, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, New Zealand, the UK, and the USA. We are already planning our next special journal issue on the African Diaspora. In the meantime, our scholars are presenting jointly at major conferences including, AERA (Kassie Freeman was invited by President Vanessa Siddle Walker to present on a special panel on the African Diaspora), ASWAD, CIES, and we were represented at the WERA Conference in Toyoko (Kassie Freeman attended).

Our scholars' accomplishments have been extraordinary, as an example, emerging scholar, Derron Wallace's publication in the Harvard Education Review titled, *Black Caribbean youth negotiating 'Stop and Frisk' and 'Stop and Search' in New York City and London*. An example of one of our Senior Scholars, Nicola Rollock published an article that appeared in the popular press, British Vogue Magazine titled, *We urgently need more Black female professors in the UK* (attached),

In summary, we hope this report demonstrates our commitment and the benefits of our work to WERA's values and goals while also filling a much needed void in the literature, scholarship, and best practices globally. Having the opportunity to continue as an AD-IRN will enable us to continue to highlight the importance of this work and strengthen the benefits of the intersection of research and best practices on and across the African Diaspora.