

Proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE)¹

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

Statement of Purpose

Given the particular experiences and contributions of Black people and scholars not only to education but all aspects of society, the call from students, community members, scholars and practitioners to establish a Centre for Black Studies in Education at OISE is timely. This proposed Centre will be a site to engage in research, support students, and harness the knowledge and scholarship of Black scholars. The Centre will be a salient tool in responding to antiblackness, anti-Black racism and the structural inequities that face Black people in all aspect of Canadian life, and in particular education. The proposed name Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE) captures this essential role and purpose of the Centre. This multi-disciplinary unit/centre will be designed to foster, strengthen, and value the Black studies research and pedagogical practices in education. The Centre will focus on the production and advancement of Black scholarship in the areas of research and pedagogy, curriculum development, provide academic mentorship for emerging Black scholars, course offerings, engender collaboration with other Centres amongst other activities. The Centre will facilitate capacity building and mentorship opportunities that promote Black scholarship, strengthen Black student communities and mitigate barriers faced by Black faculty, staff, and students. The effective date is January 1, 2022.

Academic Rationale

The Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE) is being established through the collaboration of members of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE. The Black Faculty Caucus embraces an understanding of education that is not restricted to teaching-learning that occurs within formal educational settings (K-12 and postsecondary environments) but that which is broadly conceptualized to education in non-formal contexts. These non-formal educational settings include

¹ The proposed establishment this extra-departmental education (EDU:C) unit, to be established, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto and will be administratively directed from the Dean's Office.

but is not limited to work/labour organizations, home-schooling, community-based settings, social movements, and other forms of associational life. This robust framework for education encompasses all those teachings and learnings beyond the walls of the academy that are intertwined with and transpire within the complexities of larger social, and global processes and inform the conceptualization and activities of the CBSE. The creation of the Centre for Black Studies in Education will respond to a longstanding need for OISE to offer Black students, faculty, and staff at OISE a large, well-resourced physical space within which to convene, work, and collaborate with colleagues and members of local communities. For people of African ancestry, self-directed programs of education within formal and informal settings have been essential to learning about, reconceptualizing, preserving and (re)claiming our histories and cultural identities. As such, the Centre will provide a site from which to contemplate theorizing and practices grounded in African Indigenous, Afro-Caribbean, and Black Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing.

In Canada, OISE and the wider University of Toronto have operated as a leading site from which Black educational research and scholarship has been pursued by Black scholars. A pan-Canadian examination of Black Canadian Studies in institutions reveals the sluggish pace of expansion of Black Studies education offered at universities without a formalized institutional structure/space (Francis, 2019). The Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE) will be an academic and research hub at OISE that fosters and facilitates Black educational research and praxis across OISE, the broader non-academic community, as well as in international scholarly contexts. The Centre for Black Studies in Education will provide a space for research for Black scholars and students. There is no Centre of its kind at OISE or the University of Toronto. While there are other Centres at the University of Toronto that focus on issues unique to the Caribbean, diversity, comparative studies or an aspect of Blackness, none specifically place emphasis on Black studies research and pedagogy. The CBSE will serve as a dynamic intellectual space/environment where the university and wider community meet to engage in critical conversations and about Black Studies research/learning, which spans but is not limited to the narratives, varying experiences and histories (heterogeneity) of Blackness in Canada, Continental Africa and the global Black diaspora. It will endeavour to reflect the diversity/heterogeneity of Blackness in the wider University of Toronto. In these challenging times OISE must offer local and global intellectual leadership that foregrounds critical Black Studies, antiblackness, anti-Black racism and contribute

to public awareness of these issues through research and scholarship that correct and address the destructive reality of racism at all levels of society.

Role of the Centre

The following outlines the role that the Centre will play filling a void that exists at OISE, the University of Toronto and the wider community:

- Support and promote Black Scholarship that focuses on educational research beyond the domains of the formal schooling process. This includes, but is not limited to, non-formal schooling/education, such as teaching and learning that occurs within community organizations, activities of community organizations, and social movements and institutions within the wider society.
- Serve as a ‘Black physical, intellectual and social space’ that promotes and enhances Black scholarship in education and educational activities at OISE and the University of Toronto, supporting the work of Black faculty, staff, and students.
- Serve as a repository for research on Blackness, and promote and enhance the stories, narratives, experiences, politics, critical thought, arts and cultural practices, and multiple identities of Blackness within Canada, Continental Africa and the global Black Diaspora.
- Provide a safe and supportive research environment that connects Black Canadians and people of African Ancestry with the wider community at University of Toronto, within the Black academic community across Canada, Continental Africa and the Global Black Diaspora.
- Support and guide the research in Black/anti-Black Racism and non-Black research collaborations with non-Black Faculty and students, and the wider community.
- Space that reflects the academic intentions of Black Canadians and people of the Global Black African Diaspora at OISE and the wider community at the University of Toronto.

1. Objectives

Associated with the need for a multi-disciplinary education unit that focuses on the advancement and production of Black scholarship in research and pedagogy, the following are the objectives of the Centre. The CBSE will:

1. Pursue research on Black Studies from an integrative perspective, which positions education as a process embedded within wider social processes and power relations.

2. Serve as a safe, accessible, and inclusive (intellectual and physical) space for OISE Black professors and graduate students (from various departments) to enhance research and teaching in the areas of Black Canadian and global Black Studies as well as community activists from various walks of life who are committed to doing the action-oriented work of anti-Black racism and anti-Blackness and the complexities thereof.
3. Mobilize knowledge and promote and understanding and dialogue within and without the Black community that acknowledges colonial violence and legacies that deny space for multiple Black identities [including, the Black LGBTQ+ communities and other complexities of Blackness within Canada, Continental African and the global Black Diaspora]and the connections to various forms of oppression, particularly, the subtle forms of racism, sexism heteropatriarchy, present and perpetuated by hegemonic systems of power supported by the state and its laws and policies.
4. Develop spaces that offer space for critical dialogues asking difficult, controversial, and uncomfortable questions surrounding issues of race, racism, schooling, African Indigeneity, decolonization, state violence, politics, critical thoughts, arts, and culture and much more.
5. Enhance critical Black Studies at OISE, responding to research and community-related issues with anti-Blackness/anti-Black racism, Indigeneity, and decolonization education. As part of the Centre's activities, we will advance critical public conversations in media and other outlets with social commentary on anti-Blackness, anti-Black racism, Indigeneity, and decolonization.
6. Collaborate with research programs, faculty members in different departments and grass-root community organizations to promote critical Black Studies research and pedagogy at the University of Toronto.
7. Provide leadership and training on issues of anti-Black racism and equity training to influence issues of equity at committees and in academic programs at OISE.

Details of Scholarly Activities to support Goals and Objectives

The Centre for Black Studies in Education will collaboratively engage the faculty and students affiliated with the Centre to establish a dynamic and lively roster of scholarly activities, which in annual/on-going manner, reflect the intents expressed in our vision statement and objectives. Therefore, the activities include:

- Welcome and orientation events
- Regular seminars and guest lectures
 - Academic skills development workshops for Black students
 - Annual Conferences
- Promoting publication opportunities
 - Academic mentorship for Black graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
 - [long-term] Development of a new peer reviewed journal of Black Studies in Education
 - editorial training and work experience
 - scholarly paper development training and writing groups
- Develop a data bank on the histories of people of African ancestry before Columbus (or the European Contact) to the present. The information will demystify the deficit model about people of African ancestry (Benjamin, 2003). The information will provide the needed historical underpinnings of anti-Black racism, its origins, and its reproductive tendencies within institutions across Canada.
- [Long term] Possible Collaborations with other Canadian, International universities and Canadian Colleges on initiatives, research and praxis on Black Studies and pedagogy.
- [Long term] Possible Collaborative Specialization in Black Studies in Education.
- [Long term] Possible initiative to make all resources and learning material of the Centre accessible online to students and the wider U of T community.
- [Long term] Possibility of providing bursaries or grants for students to offset the costs associated with collecting field data.

Distinctiveness

A university-wide scan of the research centres and institute was conducted for existing entities with a commitment to promoting Black studies research. An environmental scan revealed that the existing centres such as the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) and the Centre for Leadership and Diversity Studies (CLDS) at OISE, the African Studies and Caribbean Studies programs at New College and the Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. While these institutes and programs minimally overlap with the Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE), the proposed centre will offer a uniquely multidisciplinary unit from which to study and develop

critical Black Studies research and pedagogy. The CBSE will also provide a concentrated focus on Black Studies and the specificity of Black racialization and anti-Black racism across educational contexts. It will also examine research and activities that centre on the different experiences of Blackness/Black Studies within Canada, Continental Africa and the Global Black Diaspora. In sum, this Centre will bring together the synergies of Black Studies and Education broadly defined.

- There are also distinctive opportunities for collaborations. The inherent multi-disciplinarity of both Black Studies and educational studies will allow the CBSE to explore and welcome partnerships with other centres in OISE, as well as with several programs across Faculties/ divisions and departments at the University of Toronto. Collaborative initiatives with the undergraduate African Studies and Caribbean Studies program at New College (Faculty of Arts and Science) for example, will create opportunities for peer mentorship and student co-organizing across different levels of study. Several opportunities for partnership with Indigenous colleagues and students will also be explored, such as with the Indigenous Education Network, Indigenous Educational Research Centre at OISE, the Centre for Indigenous Studies in the Faculty of Arts & Science, the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Additionally, collaborative initiatives with the Women and Gender Studies Institute will create crucial opportunities for the CBSE to fulfil a striking need for greater attention to Black Queer Studies in education and to prioritize concern for Black queer and Black trans* learners of all ages and levels of study.
- Furthermore, the centre is distinct from other centres at OISE as it will, like the Centre for Franco-Ontarian Studies [Centre de recherches en éducation franco-ontarienne - CREFO] at OISE, cater to the research and learning interests of a specific segment of the Canadian population i.e., people of Black African Ancestry in Canada.

2. Participation

Participants in the Centre for Black Studies in Education will mainly come from:

1. Director
2. OISE and U of T faculty and adjunct faculty/instructor or member (from different divisions or educational units) who either self-identifies as Black, are working on

scholarship that centres on the heterogeneity of Blackness/Black Studies or is sympathetic to Black/Indigenous causes.

3. Undergraduate students, Graduate students (Master of Arts, Master of Education, Master of Teaching, Ph.D., and Ed.D. students and postdoctoral fellows),
4. Non-U of T affiliated faculty with appointment at other universities
5. Individuals, U of T staff and community collaborators.

Multi-disciplinary.

Currently active members of the Black Faculty Caucus and potential founding members of the Centre for Black Studies in Education include OISE faculty members from three departments: Ann E. Lopez, Lance T. McCready and Whitneé Garrett-Walker from Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE); George J.S. Dei, Njoki N. Wane, Rosalind Hampton and Amal Madibbo in the Department of Social Justice Education (SJE); Wanja Gitari and Fikile Nxumalo in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL); and J. Garrett-Walker, Roy Moodley and Linda Iwenofu from the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD) (*See Appendices A*). All Black faculty members at OISE whose work focuses on Blackness and align with the vision of Centre will be invited to become members of the CBSE.

As the work and potential of the Centre grows, we anticipate inviting involvement and collaboration from colleagues across the University of Toronto, influential local and international scholars and researchers including those engaged in research collaborations with the Black faculty at OISE may also be invited to join the Centre (*See the section on Membership*). Educational stakeholders and community activists within the Black community, teachers and school administrators may also be invited to take up membership as community collaborators in the Centre.

Membership Groups

- ***Director***²: OISE Faculty member who self-identifies as Black and produces scholarship that is centred on the heterogeneity or experience of Blackness. The director is responsible for the functioning of the Centre. In addition, the director must be an active member of the Centre and a member of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE (**See Appendices A**).
- ***OISE and U of T affiliated Faculty/Adjunct Faculty***: OISE and U of T faculty and adjunct faculty/instructor or member (from different divisions or educational units) who either self-identifies as Black, working on scholarship that centres on the heterogeneity of Blackness/Black Studies or is sympathetic to Black/Indigenous causes. Faculty and adjunct faculty members are expected to actively participate and contribute to the Centre via facilitating conferences/conference activities, regular seminars, guest lectures, and other activities of the centre. Faculty and adjunct faculty in this membership category are also eligible to serve on the Internal Advisory Board that supports the Director in charge of the Centre.
- ***Student***: OISE and U of T undergraduate and graduate students who self-identify as Black, pursuing scholarship/research that focuses on the experience of Blackness/Black studies. These students are expected to actively participate in the centre via making conference presentations and attending activities/conferences facilitated by the Centre. A future requirement for membership in the Centre will be that a student have taken a course that focuses on Blackness.
- ***Non-U of T affiliated Faculty***: A Non-U of T faculty with appointment at other (Canadian and international colleges and universities who either self identifies as Black, working on scholarship or praxis that centres on the heterogeneity of Blackness/Black Studies or is sympathetic to Black or Indigenous causes.
- ***Community collaborators***: Individuals, U of T staff and non-U of T students associated with community organizations who either self identifies as Black, working on scholarship or praxis that centres on the heterogeneity of Blackness/Black Studies or is an individual or U of T staff that is sympathetic to Black or Indigenous causes.

² The Centre will commence with two faculty members serving as Co-Directors. After the initial two-year term, the position will be filled by a director who will serve a term not exceeding 5 years (See *Organizational Structure and Governance* for more details).

3. Consultations

The development of the proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education involved an all-encompassing consultation process across several centres, faculty, and departmental units, Deans and Chairs at the University of Toronto campuses (St. George, Scarborough and Mississauga) (See Appendix B). In addition, we have also invited experts from Black community organizations in Ontario to participate in on-going conversations for the creation of the centre. The feedback and suggestions were collated and used to inform the development of this proposal. Below is a list of faculty, units and departments that expressed, via verbal conversations or written communication, their support and constructive criticisms for the establishment of the Centre.

Faculty/Division	Contact
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work	Dr. Dexter Voisin, Dean & Chair
Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy, (OISE)	Dr. Roy Moodley, Director; Associate Professor in Applied Psychology and Human Development Program (APHD)
Faculty of Arts and Science	Dr. Alexie Tcheuyap ³ – <i>former</i> Vice-Dean Academic Life & Equity, & Professor, Faculty of Arts and Science, French and Francophone Studies
Caribbean Studies Program at New College, Faculty of Arts and Science	Dr. Nestor Rodriguez, Professor & Director
Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, OISE	Dr. Rhonda Martinussen, Director
Interim Dean, OISE	Dr. Normand Labrie, Professor & Interim Dean, OISE
Deans and Chairs, OISE	OISE Deans and Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Glen Jones, (<i>former</i> Dean) • Dr. Normand Labrie, Interim Dean (<i>former</i> Associate Dean, Programs) • Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation • Dr. Nina Bascia (Chair LHAE) • Dr. Njoki Wane (Chair SJE) • Dr. Clare Brett (Chair CTL)

³ Dr Alexie Tcheuyap has the new role of Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, International Student Experience.

Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE), OISE	Chair, Faculty and Staff
Graduate Students, OISE	OISE Graduate Students
Master of Teaching Program, OISE	Black Student Advisory Group (CTL)
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), OISE	Helen Huang, OISE
Parents of Black Children, Ontario	Dr. Francis Ahia and Claudette Rutherford (members - Board of Directors)

Initial conversations with Dr. Dexter Voisin, Dean and Chair at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and Dr. Rhonda Martinussen, Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study began on February 02, 2021. A common sentiment shared by all internal experts is the idea the centre will fulfil a key role at the OISE, the University of Toronto and the wider community. Dr. Voisin encouraged us to develop a centre that; connects the university to the wider community, serves as the hub for data collection and a place where the students and the wider community can learn about Indigenous African knowledges. Dr. Voisin also suggested that participation in the centre should be open to OISE and UofT graduate students and faculty. Both Drs. Martinussen and Voisin noted that the graduate students and faculty should use the knowledge on Blackness and African Indigenous knowledge to influence the curriculum in colleges and K-12 classrooms. The feedback regarding the potential knowledge sharing and knowledge mobilization prospects of the centre have been incorporated both in the vision and the objectives of the centre. We have incorporated the comment regarding the participation of the wider community in the proposal; specifically, this comment influenced our thinking and development as it relates to the active participation and the different categories of membership in the Centre.

Discussions with the Chair of the Caribbean Studies program at New College (Dr. Nestor Rodriguez) at U of T (St. George) commenced in February 2021. Dr. Rodriguez shared a draft of the proposal in the said month with faculty and staff at the New College. We also had discussions with Dr. Roy Moodley (Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy). In welcoming the establishment of the centre, Drs. Rodriguez and Moodley foresee opportunities for future collaborations between Centre for Black Studies in Education and their respective units, especially

at the program level. A common area for collaboration raised by faculty is in the area of course offering. Faculty in the Caribbean studies program regularly admit graduate students in the program to audit courses relating to Blackness in the Caribbean because there is nothing similar being offered at OISE. Raising similar concerns, Dr. Moodley noted that the Centre should conduct a university-wide audit for courses that covers aspects of Blackness, which graduate students may pursue. Moving forward, the members of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE sought to have the feedback reflected in the proposal. We engaged in discussions with the Interim Dean Normand Labrie concerning the development of a course component accessible to graduate students at OISE and the wider U of T community. Discussions were also had regarding the future possibilities of streamlining, itemizing cross-listed courses and the course development, which will be incorporated once the Centre is established. OISE Graduate students and students from the Black Advisory Group (OISE Masters of Teaching Program) also would like to see the centre develop and offer courses on different aspects of Blackness and Black African Indigeneity. Future explorations may also include the establishment of a Collaborative Specialization in Black Studies in Education. This EDU:C will also collaborate with graduate units to offer for credit courses that support this collaborative specialization.

Our consultation with Interim Dean Labrie also noted that we should engage the Canadian federal and provincial governments and research organizations for funding to support initiatives and programs of the centre. He noted that this will augment the sustainability of the program. The Black Faculty Caucus at OISE will continue to engage in discussions with other groups, for example, the Black Research Network at the University of Toronto which might have shared interests and with whom the Centre for Black Studies in Education could collaborate.

Our conversations with OISE faculty also see us successfully recruiting members for the Centre. In discussions with Dr. Moodley, he noted that his research interests align with those of the centre. As a member, he indicated his willingness to develop courses and discuss program related issues and opportunities for research collaboration in the future. Since then, Drs. Fikile Nxumalo and Wanja Gitari (Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning), Dr. Whitneé Garrett-Walker (Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education) and Dr. J. Garrett-Walker (Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development) have also confirmed their membership in the

Centre. As we develop the proposal, these efforts are reflected in the multi-disciplinarity, sustainability and growth of the Centre.

Both Dr. Dexter Voisin & former Vice-Dean Alexie Tchuyap noted that the centre could inform policy, and provide mentoring opportunities for graduate students and emergent Black scholars. This has been reflected in the proposal as well as the scope of the scholarly activities that will support the goal and objectives of the centre. Former Vice-Dean Alexie Tchuyap further noted that the centre should engage on-going conversations with faculty - in the African Studies, Caribbean Studies at New College and other programs – across the wider University of Toronto to seek opportunities for collaboration not just in research and praxis but also other ways in which the Centre and other program could complement each other in fulfilling the interests of the Centre and OISE. We continue to engage with faculty at U of T Mississauga and U of T Scarborough to explore opportunities for further collaboration and common interests.

The Black Faculty Caucus at OISE also held consultations with the Deans and Chairs at OISE. Interim Dean Labrie recommends that the Centre establish an External Advisory Committee, similar to that of CREFO, which will help to strengthen the governance piece of the proposal, and ultimately the governance of the Centre. Interim Dean Labrie contends that this committee, being rooted in the community, must take on an advocacy rather than a decision-making role. Interim Dean Labrie believes that an External Advisory Committee could advise the Centre on issues relating to the Canada's Black Community. This committee also potentially help the Centre to identify and source external funding that will help the unit to fulfil its mission and remain sustainable. Once the centre is established, the leadership of the Centre will explore the possibility of an External Advisory Committee, the composition and role of the members on this committee.

Interim Dean Labrie also suggested that the proposal explicitly state that the centre will serve a specific segment of the Canadian population. This advice has been adopted and has been reflected in the above section that addresses the distinctiveness of the centre.

The four OISE Chairs present at the meeting all expressed their support for the establishment of the Centre at OISE. These include Dr. Nina Bascia (Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education), Dr. Njoki Wane (Department of Social Justice Education), Dr. Earl Woodruff

(Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development) and Dr. Clare Brett (Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning).

Former OISE Dean Dr. Glen Jones, Associate Dean Michelle Peterson-Badali, and Dr. Clare Brett all suggested that we conduct a much wider consultation process in order to reach the entire OISE population. The Black Faculty Caucus at OISE subsequently disseminated the proposal more widely amongst the OISE departments, staff and students. Interim Dean Labrie graciously offered to disseminate the proposal via the OISE listserv to all OISE students. The OISE Black Faculty Caucus held consultations with a group of OISE Graduate students who responded to invitation to participate in the process. A few of the students opted to share their feedback in writing. The OISE Graduate students with whom we consulted were concerned about the online accessibility of the Centre for students, especially during the COVID-19 and immediate post-COVID-19 period. This initiative is reflected in the activities section of the proposal. Future explorations will include plans to make accessible all the resources and learning material of the centre accessible online to students who are unable to physically enter the Centre in the OISE building. OISE Graduate students also believe that they would benefit from research collaborations between the Centre and Universities in the global south as well as Historical Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. This has also helped to inform the changes in the proposal. As a part of our long term plan, the Centre will collaborate with Canadian and international universities in research initiatives, especially in the areas of Black Studies and pedagogy. Students also see the Centre as a place that could possibly provide funds to support student research and/or field work. In the distant future, the Centre will explore the possibility of sourcing external funds for the purpose of supporting graduate students who are gathering field data. Another student also sees that Centre as a place that could host or facilitate workshops that helps students navigate anti-Black racism in the workplace and/ various professional fields. The Black Faculty Caucus at OISE will ensure that our annual conference at the Centre will include seminars/workshops that focus on navigating anti-Black racism in different workspaces.

We also consulted with the Black Students Advisory Group in the Master of Teaching program in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL) who shared similar concerns to that of the student group above. Overall, both group of students welcomed the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education. The students also believe that the multidisciplinary and

intersectional approach to Black Studies research and pedagogy offers them a vantage point from which to continue seek answers to their various research interests on Blackness.

Both Associate Dean Peterson-Badali and the students raised concerns about the figures budgeted for course releases, computers and other operating costs budgeted for the operation of the centre over the initial two years. The Black Faculty Caucus at OISE consulted with Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at OISE, who provided prudent financial advice on crafting a more realistic budget.

We also consulted with Parents of Black Children, a community organization in Ontario that advocates for the equitable educational opportunities, emotional safety, wellbeing and physical needs of Black students in school boards across the province. In endorsing the establishment of the Centre, the PBC

In endorsing the establishment of the Centre, Parents of Black Children lauds the University of Toronto for its commitment to offer a diverse and including programming and experience. Parents of Black Children contends that “OISE is globally renowned for excellence in education, research and innovation and research”, and therefore believes that the Centre will serve as a leader for teaching and learning in Black diasporic studies, literature and transformational research”.

In an effort to undertake a broad consultation process at OISE, we shared the proposal via email with the four departmental units requesting feedback and or the opportunity to share the document with the Chair, faculty and staff. The LHAE unit invited us to their departmental meeting in May 2021 where we had the opportunity to engage in a robust discussion about the purpose and role of the Centre at OISE. The faculty in the LHAE department envision the Centre as a place that will generate scholarship on issues and processes of education (broadly defined), thus concurring with the academic rationale and objectives of the Centre. They also envision the Centre can foster collaborative relationships and synergies with colleges, and that this relationship could materialize into recruitment of students and faculty at OISE. This has helped to inform the development of the proposal. In the future, the centre will seek opportunities to engage in collaborative research and praxis with Canadian colleges.

The LHAE department also foresees the Centre as a place that provides leadership and training on issues of anti-racism, anti-Black racism and issues of equity that will help to inform decisions of equities on committee and academic programs at OISE. The Black Faculty Caucus had a discussion and integrated this feedback in the scope of the centre.

We continue to consult with faculty members across University of Toronto campuses to confirm their interests for collaboration with the centre. Faculty members who have expressed an interest to join the Centre for Black Studies in Education are listed in **Appendices A**.

4. Organizational Structure and Governance

This proposed Centre will be a Black-directed and Black-driven administrative unit at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The Centre will focus on the scholarship and experiences of Black people and therefore will be directed by a member of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE. The Director will lead the operation and direction of the Centre for Black Studies in Education in consultation with an internal advisory board. The Director will be appointed by the Dean (or the Dean's Designate). This appointment will be consistent with the University of Toronto's *Guideline for Extra-Departmental Units*. This member of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE (i.e. the director) will be tasked with leadership and administrative responsibilities within the Centre for a fixed tenure, not exceeding 5 years (See *Appendix A for a list of confirmed Members in the Centre for Black Studies in Education*). The Director will be responsible for directing the CBSE research and activities, with oversight provided by the Office of the Dean, all components of the proposed CBSE, including the Centre's policies and operation, membership and the formation of external collaborations. The Director will report directly to the Dean or the Dean's designate all decisions taken as it pertains to activities within the Centre.

The Director of the Centre for Black Studies in Education will meet at least twice per year with the Dean or a Decanal representative and will meet at least annually with the Dean and another Decanal representative to review the Institute's progress in relation to the CBSE's objectives in the areas of research, collaborations and education. The effectiveness of current resources as well as development of new collaborations (within U of T and externally) will also be considered. In addition, the Director will be responsible for providing annual reports of the Centre's operations and activities to Dean of OISE.

The Director will be responsible for staffing and postings in search of the permanent administrative staff to assist with the work of the Centre. The Director will also hire a research staff that includes Graduate Assistants, a Staff Researcher and possibly a postdoctoral scholar. This will provide opportunities for Black graduate students and emergent (postdoctoral) scholars to work in an educational research setting that allows them to obtain valuable experience and academic growth. It is anticipated that the Director must be tenured. Whereas as the staff researcher must hold doctoral qualifications. The Centre will also convene a meeting with faculty who are a part of the Centre, once per semester. These meetings are expected to centre discussions around achievements and successes of the Centre, futuristic decisions and activities, ways of obtaining constructive criticisms and other (on-going) integral matters necessary for the operation of the education unit. The Director will administer an operating budget provided by the Dean (*See Sustainability section for budget*). This EDU:C will not administer research grants.

Upon establishing the Centre, members of the Black Caucus at OISE will be involved to support the development of the Centre. Several faculty members within the OISE community have expressed their intentions to actively participate within the Centre (*See Appendix A for a list of confirmed Members in the Centre for Black Studies in Education*). Once the Centre for Black Studies in Education is established, the Director will appoint an Internal Advisory Board in consultation with the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE and the Dean. The advisory committee will conform to the [Provost's Statement on the Role of Advisory Bodies](#) and consist of members from the members of the Centre and include the Director, four U of T affiliated faculty/adjunct faculty members, two individuals from the community partner member and one graduate student. With the exception of the graduate students, all the members on the Internal Advisory Board will serve a term not exceeding five years. Graduate student representatives on the internal advisory board may serve a term not exceeding 2 years. The Internal Advisory Board will hold decision-making powers to establish who obtains membership and other matters within the Centre, and those decisions that will be determined by a vote of the majority.

In accordance with normal practice, as an EDU:C, the Centre for Black Studies in Education will be subject to cyclic review by the Dean of OISE. Generally, this appraisal will correspond with

the appointment or re-appointment of the Director (generally every 5 years). The appraisal will assess the sustainability of the CBSE as an EDU:C, its performance and accomplishments vis-à-vis the goals and objectives outlined in this proposal. Possible outcomes include the closure of the Centre.

5. Sustainability and Resources

We consider the notion of sustainability to be an important feature of the Centre. As the research projects, collaborations and activities of the Centre expand, we will invite faculty members from across the OISE and the University of Toronto to potentially serve in the capacity of Director and members of the Executive. We will also invite OISE Faculty and U of T faculty or member who either self-identifies as Black, working on scholarship that centres on the heterogeneity of Blackness/Black Studies or is sympathetic to Black and Indigenous causes to serve in the capacity of Internal Advisory Board in the future. These leaders will be responsible for establishing the annual agenda which ensures that the Centre remains active, relevant and thereby fulfills the vision and objectives to the OISE and the wider University of Toronto, even after the initial 5-year period.

The proposed Centre for Black Studies in Education is an EDU:C, and as a result, it is acknowledged that the Centre may not administer research funds or solely enter into contractual agreements or commitments without approval from the Dean/Dean's Office. Consistent with the Faculty's normal practice, all monies and research funds must flow through the Dean's Office. Likewise, all research contracts and agreements must receive the Dean's approval and signature. This proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education is in alignment with current relevant workload policies. Accordingly, the roles and responsibilities of the Director are sustainable.

Space. The Centre for Black Studies in Education will require the allocation of adequate physical space suitable to house appointed research staff, administrative staff and a reception waiting area.

Location: TBA

Budget

OISE has committed to supporting the development of a sustainable budget, along with seed funding from the Dean's Office for the first two years for the establishment and operation of the centre. In addition, the Office the Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation provides a small amount of base funding to all OISE EDU-Cs who request it, and administers a funding program to support Centre initiatives on a competitive basis. An important priority of the Centre will be to secure external funding. The Centre will establish an External Advisory Committee, one purpose of which is to assist the Centre in obtaining external funding, including from government (federal, provincial, and municipal), non-governmental organizations, the corporate sector, and civil society.

Other Forms of Support for the Centre's Success:

The Office the Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation holds periodic meetings of the Directors of OISE EDU-Cs. These meetings provide a forum for Directors to stay abreast of the activities and events in other centres and discuss issues of common interest. These meetings may also lead to the creation of synergies on shared goals. In addition, OISE has included the CBSE in its advancement priorities for the University of Toronto's 3rd advancement campaign.

References

- Benjamin, A. (2003). *The Black/Jamaican criminal: The making of ideology* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). *Toronto, ON: University of Toronto.*
- Francis, A. (2019). The Growing field of Black Canadian studies. *University Affairs*. Retrieved from <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/the-growing-field-of-black-canadian-studies/>
- Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. (2017). Assistant Professor – Black Studies in Education. Retrieved from https://csse-scee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/employment_2017_09Sep_BlackStudiesInEducation.pdf

Appendix A: Confirmed Members in the Centre for Black Studies in Education

Faculty Member	Association/Department	Contact
Dr. George J.S. Dei	SJE, OISE	george.dei@utoronto.ca
Dr. J. Garret-Walker	APHD, OISE	jgarrettwalker@usfca.edu
Dr. Whitneé Garrett-Walker	LHAE, OISE	whitnee.garrettwalker@utoronto.ca
Dr. Wanja Gitari	CTL, OISE	wanja.gitari@utoronto.ca
Dr. rosalind hampton	SJE, OISE	rosalind.hampton@utoronto.ca
Dr. Linda Iwenofu	APHD, OISE	linda.iwenofu@utoronto.ca
Dr. Ann E. Lopez	LHAE, OISE	ann.lopez@utoronto.ca
Dr. Amal Madibbo	SJE, OISE	
Dr. Lance T. McCready	LHAE, OISE	lance.mccready@utoronto.ca
Dr. Roy Moodley	APHD, OISE	roy.moodley@utoronto.ca
Dr. Fikile Nxumalo	CTL, OISE	f.nxumalo@utoronto.ca
Dr. Njoki N. Wane	SJE, OISE	njoki.wane@utoronto.ca

Appendix B: List of educational units, departments and faculty, Deans, Chairs and Community Collaborators consulted in the campus-wide process to establish the Centre for Black Studies in Education at OISE.

List of Faculty/Division Participated in the Consultation Process

Dr. Nestor E. Rodriguez
Professor & Director
Caribbean Studies Program
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Rhonda Martinussen

Associate Professor & Director
Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Dr. Dexter R. Voisin

Professor & Dean
Sandra Rotman Chair in Social Work
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Dr. Alexie Tcheuyap

Former Vice-Dean, Faculty, Academic Life & Equity
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Roy Moodley

Associate Professor & Director
Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy
Applied Psychology and Human Development Program (APHD)
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Dr. Normand Labrie

Interim Dean & Professor (OISE)
(former) Associate Dean, Programs,
OISE

Dr. Glen Jones

(former) Dean
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali

Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

Chair, Faculty & Staff

Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education,
OISE,

Helen Huang

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Graduate Students (All programs)

OISE

Black Advisory Group

Master of Teaching Program
Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning
OISE

Deans and Chairs Meeting – Monday April 26, 2021

- Dr Glen Jones (*former* Dean, OISE)
- Dr. Normand Labrie, Interim Dean (*former* Associate Dean, Programs)
- Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation
- Dr. Nina Bascia (Professor & Chair, Leadership Higher & Adult Education, OISE)
- Dr. Njoki Wane (Chair, Social Justice Education, OISE)
- Dr. Clare Brett (Chair, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, OISE)

Community Group(s)

Dr. Francis Ahia & Claudette Rutherford

Board of Directors (Members)
Parents of Black Children
Ontario

Consultation Notes

Dr. Nestor Rodrigues

Professor Director, Caribbean Studies Program
New College
Faculty of Arts and Science

Feedback:

Dear Everton,

Dr Nestor and his colleagues in the Caribbean Studies (Kevin Edmonds, Alissa Trotz, Melanie Newton) at New College welcomed enthusiastically the CBSE initiative. They were enthusiastic that the Centre is looking forward to establishing collaborations with the Caribbean studies program and they look forward to the centre coming to fruition.

- They envision many opportunities of collaboration with the Centre and to demonstrate the importance of establishing the CBSE.

Dr. Alexie Tcheuyap

Faculty of Arts and Science

- Welcomed the establishment of the CBSE;
- Believe it is very timely, and has the unique potential to allow Black faculty flourish even better.

- Expressed the following question and concerns, which helped to inform the consultation process and the establishment of this proposal:
- Clarification as to whether the centre will serve the OISE campus or the wider UofT campus and community.
- You rightly acknowledge that there are other UofT programs (African and Caribbean Studies at A&S for example) that focus on aspects of Black studies. How do you see the place of these programs in relation to the new Centre?
- Believes it would be useful to think at ways in which other programs complement each other if you believe this is something of interest to OISE
- You are probably aware that the Black Research Network recently won a multiyear ISI grant. Would it be useful to relate to this initiative? He wants to know whether we have consulted with the Black Research Network and what role will they play in the centre.
- Finally, on a purely conceptual level, is Black scholarship the one produced by Black scholars or about Black people? I am thinking for example about South Africans who are White and are Africanists.

Dr. Rhonda Martinussen

Associate Professor & Director
 Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study,
 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Notes from Dr. Martinussen:

- Martinussen welcome the establishment of the centre at OISE.
- Envisions the centre as a critical and timely initiative; sees it fulfilling a key role at the university and at OISE and the community.”

Dr Dexter R. Voisin
 Professor & Dean
 Sandra Rotman Chair in Social Work
 Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Notes from coconsulting with Dr Voisin

- Provided positive feedback, and stressed the importance of the potential for students, post-doctoral fellows, and community members.

Dr. Roy Moodley

Associate Professor & Director

Notes from Dr Moodley

- Research interest aligns with that of the centre. And he noted he wanted to be a contributing member and will be willing to discussed program related issues in the future.”
-

Deans and Chairs Meeting - April 26, 2021

Attendees:

Dr. Glen Jones (*former* Dean, OISE)

- Dr. Normand Labrie, Interim Dean (*former* Associate Dean, Programs)
- Dr. Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation
- Dr. Nina Bascia (Chair LHAE)
- Dr. Njoki Wane (Chair SJE)
- Dr. Clare Brett (Chair CTL)
- Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

Professor Glen Jones, (*former*) Dean OISE

- Welcomed and supported the establishment of the Centre; It should also be noted that Dean Jones committed a total of \$200,000 for the establishment of the Centre for two years.
- Recommended that the proposal be shared with all the OISE departments Chairs for feedback and input.
- Provided feedback on the budget, staffing and other resources.

Professor Normand Labrie, Interim Dean & (*former* Associate Dean Programs) OISE

- Provided suggestions regarding linkages to CREFO, including faculty members, targeted populations and governance.
- Provided suggestions on how to consults with student groups at OISE.

Professor Nina Bascia, Chair LHAE

- Welcomed and supported the establishment of the centre;
- Agreed to facilitate a department meeting for the Centre to share the proposal with the LHAE faculty

Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean

- Recommend that the proposal be circulated widely as possible with different stakeholders in OISE departments, staff, the wider U of T as well as student groups.
- Also recommend that we engage the Black Research Network in our consultation process;

- Recommend the establishment of an advisory group that could help with providing ongoing advice as well as assistance in sourcing funds or connect with people who have close connections to government and other funding sources

Professor Clare Brett, Chair CTL

- Welcomed the establishment of the Centre at OISE
- Recommend that that the consultation process included staff and student groups focusing on equity at the university (for example, the Black Advisory group in the Master of Teaching program at OISE).

Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education (LHAE), OISE - May 20, 2021

Consultation Meeting with **LHAE faculty and staff** Re the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education at OISE

Attendees:

- OISE Black Faculty Caucus
- LHAE Faculty and Staff
- Karen Dindsdale Kaufman (Executive Assistant, LHAE)
- Dr. Nina Bascia
- Dr. Karen Acton
- Dr. Elizabeth Buckner
- Dr. Daniel Carral
- Dr. Claudia Diaz Rios
- Dr. Ann Lopez
- Dr. Caroline Manion
- Dr. Lance McCready
- Dr. Kiran Mirchandani
- Dr. Peter Sawchuk
- Dr. Coleen Scully-Stewart
- Dr. Jennifer Sumner
- Dr. Marcelo Vieta
- Dr. Stephanie Waterman
- Dr. Anna Katyn Chmielewski

Questions and Concerns:

- Want to know how we are defining education within the context of the centre; education will be broadly defined to include education in formal and non-formal contexts and associational life
- Wanted to know why it is the Black Centre for Studies in Education and not anti-Black Racism Centre. We informed the faculty about the importance of focusing on not just Blackness but also

Black research and pedagogy. We also referred them to the plan and initiatives outline in the proposal.

- Expressed commitments about the sustainability of the centre beyond the two-year seed funding commitment that we received from the Dean's office. We assured the faculty that we are quite confident that the university do whatever possible to ensure that we remain in operation. Besides, we educate them that centre will also seek external sources of funding.
- What are the ways in which students see themselves situated in the Centre. We provided a few examples. For example, formal mentoring, support for their research, etc.

Suggestions

- Welcomed the establishment of the centre and sees it as a timely initiative to respond to systemic injustices against Blacks as well as an initiative to improve equity at OISE
- Recommend that the scope of the centre be broad to include leadership on anti-racism practices within OISE (for example, bring groups together or developing programs, curricula or initiatives or providing leadership to other groups working on issues of anti-black racism.
- Envisioned that there will be some sort of matrix where the Centre has active membership in a variety of unit and places across OISE. This will ensure that Black faculty will not do all the heavy lifting themselves. I am thinking about the equity committee at OISE and the academic programs. It is really important that students and faculty who identify as Black be in these spaces.
- Recommend that we offer courses on Blackness and streamline existing courses to prevent any sort of overlap in course offerings.

June 09, 2021

Consultation Meeting with OISE Graduate students Re the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education

Attendees:

- OISE Black Faculty Caucus (OBFC)
- **OISE Graduate Students:**
 - Deserene Burrell-Ingram
 - Rhonda Kerry-Ann Williams
 - Sherene Douglas
 - Kim Bordon Penney
 - Willis Akala Opondo
 - Danielle Bannis
 - Anuli Ndubuisi
 - Mobafa Baker
 - Lynne Alexandrova

Questions and Concerns:

- Are there any plans to have outreach programs to have more Black people joining the program? We inform them of the collective effort to have other faculty on board. We also inform them that we will design different membership categories to target the faculty and other students to join. Also, the centre will focus on the complexities of Blackness. So, the Centre will be a space where

Blacks (Black Canadians, Black from Continental African and the Global Black Diaspora) will see themselves.

- What are your measurable goals for first and second year for the Centre?
- Wanted to know more about the governance structure.
- Students also had questions about the budget. The Black Faculty used these questions to further consult the Chief Admin Officer at OISE. This allowed us to draft a more realistic budget.
- Students wanted to know whether the centre has plans to offer new courses. We informed that that we have plans to release courses in the long term; students will be able to enrol in courses and possible earn a Collaborative specialization.

Comments and Suggestions

- Welcomed the establishment of the centre and sees it as a timely initiative to respond to systemic injustices against Black and contribute to the inclusiveness at Black Students at OISE; A few students envision the Centre as space that will lead to the production and mobilization of Black Knowledges, Black Studies and African Indigeneity and indigenous knowledge. Others see the centre as a space that will foster resilience amongst each other and ultimately dismantle the hegemonic systems of capitalism and racial injustice.
- Students are enthusiastic about the multidisciplinary nature of the centre.
- Students also envision collaboration with universities in the global south as well as with historically Black Colleges and Universities in the USA. All these suggestions were used to inform our proposal.
- Students also suggested that the Centre could provide funding to assist students with field research, especially those who are not fortunate to obtain SSHRC or OGS. This comment was also instrumental in helping us to re-draft the proposal.

Draft Emails Sent to Chairs, OISE Students and Community Partners – May 08, 2021

Hello Professor Clare Brett,

This email is follow-up to our conversation at the DAC meeting in which you offered to initiate contact with us and the Black Advisory Group in the MT program at OISE. Would you be kind enough to provide us with a connect for this group?

Regards,

Dr. Everton Ellis

On behalf of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus

Dear Interim Dean Normand Labrie,

This email is follow-up to our conversation at the DAC meeting in which you offered to share, with students, the proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education at OISE.

I have drafted an email below that can be shared with students and student groups interested in participating in the consultation process.

Regards,
Dr. Everton Ellis

Dear Students/Student Groups at OISE,

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

However, in the meantime we are seeking feedback from student groups across the programs and departmental units at OISE, University of Toronto. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large. Student groups interested in participating in the consultation process are kindly asked to respond no later than **Tuesday, May 25, 2021**.

We are grateful for your input, feedback via email or dialogue and conversation with Professor Njoki Wane (njoki.wane@utoronto.ca) and Professor Ann Lopez (ann.lopez@utoronto.ca) (Interim and Inaugural Co-Directors), Professor George Dei (george.dei@utoronto.ca) or other members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus

Dear Dr Carly Manion,

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

We are currently in the consultation process. Would you be kind enough to share this email with Anti-Black Racism Task Force as well as your group at OISE? I have drafted an email below that can be shared with groups that are interested in participating in the consultation process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus

Dear Groups/Educational Units/Groups at OISE,

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

However, in the meantime we are seeking feedback from student groups across the programs and departmental units at OISE, University of Toronto. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large. Student groups interested in participating in the consultation process are kindly asked to respond no later than **Tuesday, May 25, 2021**.

We are grateful for your input, feedback via email or dialogue and conversation with Professor Njoki Wane (njoki.wane@utoronto.ca) and Professor Ann Lopez (ann.lopez@utoronto.ca) (Interim and Inaugural Co-Directors), Professor George Dei (george.dei@utoronto.ca) or other members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus

Dear Department Chairs at OISE

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

However, in the meantime we are seeking feedback from student groups across the programs and departmental units at OISE, University of Toronto. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large. We would appreciate the opportunity to share our proposal with you and your staff at your upcoming departmental meeting. Our presentation is

expected to last between 15-20 minutes at length. Would you be kind enough to provide us with possible dates and time for your meetings in the months of May and June?

We are grateful for your input, feedback via email or dialogue and conversation with Professor Njoki Wane (njoki.wane@utoronto.ca) and Professor Ann Lopez (ann.lopez@utoronto.ca) (Interim and Inaugural Co-Directors), Professor George Dei (george.dei@utoronto.ca) or other members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

Dear Sadora Asefaw,

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

However, in the meantime we are seeking feedback from student groups across the programs and departmental units at OISE, University of Toronto. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large. We would appreciate the opportunity to share our proposal with you. Please feel free to share the proposal with members of your group and provide us with any constructive feedback or criticisms regarding the establishment of this Centre.

We kindly asked that you provide us with a response no later than **Friday, May 28, 2021**.

We are grateful for your input, feedback via email or dialogue and conversation with Professor Njoki Wane and Professor Ann Lopez (Interim and Inaugural Co-Directors), Professor George Dei) or other members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

Sample Letter/Email Sent to Faculty/Units/Centre across U of T Campuses

February 03, 2021

Dr. Roy Moodley
Director
Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy,
Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development
OISE

Dear Dr. Moodley,

OISE is establishing a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with the OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal is working its way through the processes at OISE at the moment.

However, in the meantime we are seeking feedback from faculty and Centres across the University of Toronto. Below is a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Should you require more detailed information, I am happy to send along a copy of the draft proposal.

We are grateful for your input, feedback via email or dialogue and conversation with Professors Njoki Wane and Ann Lopez (Interim and Inaugural Co-Directors) or other members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus

Purpose of the Centre for Black Studies in Education

The Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE) is being established through the collaboration of members of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus. The Black Faculty Caucus embraces an understanding of education that is not restricted to teaching-learning that occurs within formal educational settings (K-12) and postsecondary environments) but that which is broadly conceptualized to education in non-formal contexts. These non-formal educational settings include but is not limited to work/labour organizations, home-schooling, community-based settings, social movements, and other forms of associational life. This robust framework for education encompasses all those teachings and learnings beyond the walls of the academy that are intertwined with and transpire within the complexities of larger social, and global processes and inform the conceptualization and activities of the CBSE. The creation of the Centre for Black Studies in Education will respond to a longstanding need for OISE and U of T to offer Black students, faculty, and staff at OISE, a large, well-resourced physical space within which to convene, work and collaborate with colleagues and members of local communities. For people of African ancestry, self-directed programs of education within formal and non-formal settings have been essential to learning about, reconceptualizing, preserving and reclaiming our histories and

cultural identities. As such, the Centre will provide a site from which to contemplate theorizing and practices grounded in African Indigenous, Afro-Caribbean, And Black Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing.

Confirmed Members in the Centre for Black Studies in Education

Faculty Member	Association/Department	Contact
Dr. George J.S. Dei	SJE, OISE	george.dei@utoronto.ca
Dr. J. Garret-Walker	APHD, OISE	jgarrettwalker@usfca.edu
Dr. Whitneé Garrett-Walker	LHAE, OISE	whitnee.garrettwalker@utoronto.ca
Dr. Wanja Gitari	CTL, OISE	wanja.gitari@utoronto.ca
Dr. rosalind hampton	SJE, OISE	rosalind.hampton@utoronto.ca
Dr. Linda Iwenofu	APHD, OISE	linda.iwenofu@utoronto.ca
Dr. Ann E. Lopez	LHAE, OISE	ann.lopez@utoronto.ca
Dr. Amal Madibbo	SJE, OISE	
Dr. Lance T. McCready	LHAE, OISE	lance.mccready@utoronto.ca
Dr. Roy Moodley	APHD, OISE	roy.moodley@utoronto.ca
Dr. Fikile Nxumalo	CTL, OISE	f.nxumalo@utoronto.ca
Dr. Njoki N. Wane	SJE, OISE	njoki.wane@utoronto.ca

Email inviting Community Partners to Participate in the Consultation Process at the CBSE

Dear _____,

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

Response to OISE Students who indicated an interest to participate in the Consultation process for the establishment of the CBSE at OISE

Dear OISE students,

The OISE Black Faculty Caucus appreciates your interest to participate in the consultation process for the establishment of the Center for Black Studies in Education at OISE, University of Toronto. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. You are welcome to participate in the process in either of the following ways:

- Provide a written feedback detailing your supports and/or any improvements that you envision for this Centre. Students who choose this option are asked to make their written submission to the email provided below no later than **Friday, June 11, 2021**.
- At a virtual forum scheduled for **Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 3:30pm- 5:00pm**. The Zoom link and/or an Outlook invite will be provided in a subsequent email.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant,

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

Letters

May 25, 2021

African Canadian National Coalition Against Hate Oppression and Racism (ANCHOR)
Woodbridge,
Ontario

Dear Sir/Madam,

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Tuesday, June 08, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 25, 2021

Dr. Francis Ahia

Organization of Parents of Black Children
Toronto,
Ontario

Dear Dr. Ahia

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Tuesday, June 08, 2021.**

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 25, 2021

Claudette Rutherford
Parents of Black Children
Ontario,
Canada

Dear Claudette Rutherford,

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Tuesday, June 08, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 24, 2021

The President
Ghanaian Canadian Association (Ontario Chapter)
Etobicoke
ON

Dear Mr. Emmanuel Duodu

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 22, 2021

Director & Members of the Steering Committee
Black Creek Community Farm
ON

Dear Leticia Ama Daewuo and Dr. Sam Tecele,

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 24, 2021

Director & Members of the Executive Committee
Peel Association of African Canadian Educators (PAACE)
Peel Region,
Ontario

Dear Director & Executive Committee

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 24, 2021

Black Studies Collective OISE
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
University of Toronto,
252 Bloor St W, Toronto,
ON M5S 1V6

Dear Executive Committee,

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from faculty, staff, students and student groups, and departmental units across the University of Toronto campuses. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Student groups interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**. The OISE Black Faculty Caucus appreciates your interest to participate in the

consultation process for the establishment of the Center for Black Studies in Education at OISE, University of Toronto.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant,

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

May 24, 2021

Director & Members of the Executive Committee
Peel Association of African Canadian Educators (PAACE)
Peel Region,
Ontario

Dear Director & Executive Committee

A proposal is currently being developed at the initiative of the OISE Black Faculty Caucus for the establishment of a Center for Black Studies in Education. This has come about after meetings with OISE Black Faculty Caucus and the Dean. The proposal will be submitted for approval through governance in the coming months.

As part of the governance process, we are seeking feedback from community groups and partners. Attached you will find a copy of the draft proposal for your perusal. It includes a description of the purpose of the Centre and the role it will fill at OISE, the U of T and the community at large.

Community partners interested in participating in the process are kindly asked to provide their support and/or feedback in writing via email to everton.ellis@mail.utoronto.ca no later than **Friday, June 04, 2021**.

I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Everton Ellis
Research Assistant

On behalf of the Black Faculty Caucus at OISE

Other Faculty/Division with whom the proposal was shared:

Dr Earl Woodruff

Professor & Chair,
Applied Psychology and Human Development Program (APHD)
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Dr Seana Adams

Co-President
Black Medical Students Association,
Temerty Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Catherine Amara

Professor, Teaching Stream
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education

Dr. Beverly Bain

Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Mark V. Campbell

Professor and Associate Chair
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Dickson Eyoh

Professor of Political Science
Associate Chair & Undergrad Director
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Marieme Lo,

Professor & Director
African Studies Program
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Shahrzad Mojab

Professor
Program Director, Equity Studies
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Nakanyike Musisi

Professor of History
Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr. Lisa Robinson

Vice Dean, Strategy and Operations,
Temerty Faculty of Medicine Professor, Department of Paediatrics

Dr. Roberta K. Timothy

Professor

Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto St George

Dr. Beth Coleman

Black Research Network
Faculty of Information

Black Studies Collective OISE

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Other Community groups with whom the Proposal was shared:

Black Creek Community - info@blackcreekfarm.ca
Director & Members of the Steering Committee
Black Creek Community Farm
Toronto

Emmanuel Duodu

President
Ghanaian Canadian Association
Toronto

African Canadian National Coalition Against Hate Oppression and Racism (ANCHOR)

Woodbridge,
Ontario

Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators - ONABSE

Toronto
Ontario

African Educators Network – AEN

Toronto
Ontario

Peel Association of African Canadian Educators (PAACE)

Peel Region,
Ontario