

April 13, 2019

Dear ASWAD members,

I am honored to submit my letter, which confirms my interest to serve on the board member of the Association the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). The link to my faculty profile can be found here: <https://www.kent.edu/node/amoaba-gooden>.

I am excited about the possibility of assisting ASWAD in carrying out its mission and vision. I have been attending ASWAD conferences since 2007 and have traveled with the organization to various national and international locations including Charleston, Pittsburg, Barbados, Ghana and Spain. ASWAD has been for me and many others, one of the few associations that support the dissemination of the most recent research on the diversity of Africa and its diaspora.

I currently serve as Chair of the Department of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University. This position has better prepared me to recognize the potential and magnitude that academic associations offer in terms of radical change and development at institutional and community levels. My passion lies in helping to facilitate institutional change. Therefore, my experience in dealing with the complexity of the structure and operations within and across academic institutions, may be helpful to ASWAD and its members in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, assisting in research dissemination. In addition, I am particularly mindful of the barriers that African descended faculty and other faculty of color face in academic institutions. I hope to be able to assist ASWAD in supporting it members who face challenges.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at agooden@kent.edu.

Best regards,



Amoaba Gooden, PhD
Chair and Associate Professor