CONCEPT NOTE/PROPOSAL

AAAD STUDIES – JMU LIBRARIES FELLOWSHIPS

Title: AAAD Studies Fellowships (A partnership of the AAAD Center and JMU Libraries)

- This is a working title for the project.
- A working team will agree on a name for the project.
- The working team will further name each fellowship.

Background

For background, we offer the following commitments of partnering units:

AAAD Center Mission

The mission of the Center is to advance interdisciplinary and decolonial knowledge about peoples of African descent--their histories, cultures, languages, arts, economics, spiritualities, sciences, and technologies, philosophies, ideas, and socio-political structures in local and global contexts. The Center fosters intellectual and creative inquiry, programming, and activist enterprises for student, faculty, and community constituencies at the university and beyond.

JMU Libraries Annual Strategic Priorities

While several Libraries STAR goals are relevant to this program, we particularly highlight the following:

The Libraries will continue working to realize our statement of aspirational culture, focusing in this phase on integrating best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion into operations, programming, and outreach. This includes:

1. Actively exploring funding possibilities and best practices for instituting a residency program meant to welcome and support new librarians and library staff of color or members of other under-represented groups.

2. Better defining Libraries' support for JMU programs abroad and international faculty research and service, with particular emphasis on the Global South.

JMU Partnerships with African Institutions

"With globalization and shifting objectives and demographic needs in higher education, U.S. universities are challenged to redefine their recruitment, research, pedagogical and career development agendas. The African continent boasts some of the world's fastest growing technological and financial economies, and this African continent focused working group is charged with defining JMU's place in this expanding internationalized education and research model, while creating opportunities for research, teaching, and global community and civic engagement for our students, faculty and community. This initiative also enhances JMU's efforts in diversity, access and inclusion, and advances our vision to be national model of the engaged

university: engaged with ideas and the world." (https://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/committees-and-taskforces/PCPBJMUAC.shtml)

Description

To meet the foregoing commitments, AAAD Center and JMU Libraries have partnered to establish three AAAD Studies Fellowships for scholars (all disciplines) from the Global South in the following areas:
- Decolonial Studies
- Digital humanities and/or educational technology
- Libraries and Information Science

The fellowships will support JMU's engagement vision, and transition to R2 status.

Particulars

1. **Fellowship Type and Value**

   - These are remote fellowships that could conceivably transition to resident fellowships at some point in the future if a funder is identified.
   - The fellowship for each international fellow is valued at USD 2,500 with 1,500 of that value in cash.
   - The rest of the award is in resource access— libraries database and subscriptions access, consultation, and JMU fellow support.

2. **The Fellows**

International Fellows
   - The three fellows will be drawn from higher education institutions primarily on the African Continent as well as the Global South African Diaspora.

JMU Faculty Host
   - International fellows will be partnered, *where possible*, with a JMU faculty/research/creative host.
   - Hosts will be drawn from all units at JMU and determined by international fellows area of expertise or fellowship research focus.
   - Each partnership relationship's operations will be determined by the needs of the fellowship project.

Library Liaison
   - Each International Fellow will be supported and introduced to available Libraries resources by an appropriate library liaison. (This may be a subject liaison or another member of the Libraries faculty or staff.)

3. **Time**

- This is a one-year competitive fellowship.
- A selection committee will receive applications in the Fall semester of the year preceding the fellowship year.

- Fellows will be selected and invited in the Spring semester.
- The fellowship year begins at the start of the new academic year and runs until the start of the next academic year.
- *Note: To ensure a strong first cohort, and also facilitate hosting the first cohort in Fall of 2021, this year's selection will be made from a pool of fifteen scholars proposed by AAAD and Libraries faculty, and the JMU Africa Initiatives working groups' members.*

4. Fellowship Administration

- The fellowship will be administered by a committee selected by AAAD Studies Center and Libraries.
- The committee will serve a three-year term as part of university service.
- The committee will comprise of two AAAD faculty, two JMU Libraries personnel, and a fifth member invited by the AAAD Center directors.
- Financial aspects of the fellowship (disbursements, etc.) and requests for JMU IT affiliate status for the International Fellows will be administered through AAAD.

5. Funding & Resources

- The fellowship is funded primarily by JMU Libraries.
- AAAD Center and JMU Libraries will negotiate resource access with other units at JMU where necessary, inviting new annual partners as needed.

6. Promotion

- AAAD and other JMU faculty are engaged in research, study abroad and other partnerships with individuals at over fifty institutions of higher learning in the global south. These will be our starting point in promoting the fellowship. By the third year, the fellowships should be established enough that targeted emails and website information will suffice as promotional opportunities.