

Wayne State University invites applications from nationally prominent Associate or Full Professors for the Coleman A. Young Foundation Endowed Chair of Urban Affairs.

Wayne State University, founded in 1868, is a nationally recognized public, urban research University in Detroit, Michigan. Committed to educational opportunity, research and community enrichment, Wayne State serves a critical role in Michigan's higher education landscape. It holds the highest Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching designations in both research and community engagement. Just as the city of Detroit is undergoing a renaissance, the University itself is in a time of significant transformation, strengthening its ability to serve students from Detroit and around the world. As Michigan's most diverse public University, Wayne State has long prided itself on being an institution of access and opportunity for students, no matter their background. Now, the U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best Colleges rankings has identified Wayne State as one of the top-performing schools in the nation — and the best in Michigan — at helping economically disadvantaged students succeed and graduate.

Located in the heart of Detroit, the largest majority Black city in America, Wayne State has a deep and broad history as an engine for educational success and social mobility for urban populations. Generations of Black doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, social workers, pharmacists, and other professionals have been educated at Wayne State, as have immigrants and their children from around the world. This demonstrated commitment to access to urban education for diverse population, equity in delivery, and the creation of an inclusive environment is embedded in the vision and mission of the University.

Coleman A. Young, who served as Detroit's mayor from 1974 to 1994, created the Coleman A. Young Foundation Endowed Chair in Urban Affairs upon forming the [Coleman A. Young Foundation](#) in 1982. The Coleman A. Young Foundation Endowed Chair is an extension of the University's mission and was established to recognize and reward academic excellence in the study of Black social movements, labor, radicalism, Civil Rights, Black Power, and/or struggles against racial and economic inequities in housing, healthcare, education, the criminal justice system, or labor policies and practices. The position provides a unique opportunity to promote high-impact research and advocacy in the University, the metropolitan area of Detroit and the broader community. The Endowed Chair will be expected to play a leading public role in the study of Black social movements, urban grassroots politics and struggles for social, racial, and economic justice. The Endowed Chair position is intended to spur interdisciplinary collaborations across the University on the critical topics of race, politics and inequality, especially those issues that affect Black Americans. This opportunity comes when Wayne State is making significant commitments to strengthen and diversify the faculty. The Endowed Chair will have an opportunity to partner with a variety of campus constituents to build a more inclusive curriculum across the campus, energize research areas that have often been neglected, deepen Wayne State's commitment to its local community, and better support Black students.

To that end, Wayne State seeks a collaborative, interdisciplinary and community-focused scholar who can act as a catalyst to promote high-impact research and advocacy. The incoming Endowed Chair must be a creative, passionate and nationally-recognized scholar who values Coleman A. Young's legacy in shaping the city of Detroit. The successful candidate will be housed in the academic unit of their choice and will work with the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and the

Detroit Equity Action Lab on social justice and community engagement projects. The holder of this esteemed position will be referred to as the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair and will be expected to embody the namesake's lifelong commitment to Detroit and the pursuit of political, economic, racial, and social justice. For more information, please visit www.wittkieffer.com.

WittKieffer is assisting Wayne State University in this search. Application review will begin in February 2022 but will remain open until the position is filled. Applications should include a CV, cover letter and up to three publications/preprints. Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

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Wayne State University is an equal opportunity employer. No person will be discriminated against or harassed in employment because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, familial status, marital status, arrest record, height, weight, sexual orientation, qualified Vietnam era veterans, qualified special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans and other protected veterans, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal or state law.