



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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Leslie K. Etienne Class of 2024

Current Employer:

Indiana University Indianapolis

Professional Background:

Dr. Leslie K. Etienne is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and director of the Africana Studies program at Indiana University Indianapolis in the School of Liberal Arts. He is also the Founding Executive Director of the Center for Africana Studies and Culture and holds affiliate faculty appointments in

American Studies and Museum Studies. Dr. Etienne's research interests are based at the intersections of Black Freedom Movement Histories, Cultural Heritage studies, Pan Africanism, and environmental justice and food sovereignty. His paramount research lies within the justice-based multigenerational emancipatory education found in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Freedom Schools enacted during the "Freedom Summer" in 1964. In the community, he is Executive Director for the IU Indianapolis Freedom School site. Committed to service both inside and outside of the university, he serves as the President of the Joseph Taylor Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.



Major Accomplishments:

ASALH Freedom School Strategic Planning Committee

What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Officer of ASALH:

What I would hope to accomplish as an Executive Council member of ASALH is to work within the continuum of history around Carter G. Woodson's unyielding efforts to deploy Black history as a counter to deleterious narratives and as sustained resistance to white supremacy. I am also deeply committed to playing an active role in supporting the work

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of Black institutions and particularly those for which I am a member. I have a great deal of experience in leadership and have transferable professional skills that may be useful to the organization, and I would be interested in exploring the various ways my professional profile can be helpful to our mission. On a more personal note, I am quite aware of the broader implications of our organization thriving in a national political moment that has pointed its attention to distorting history and bending it to the desires of a clearly racist agenda. My work as a scholar of Black Studies compels me to take such actions and do my part to help the organization grow, thereby providing me an entry point to satisfying the desire to be a good steward of the legacy of the discipline. Finally, I am quite curious about the inner workings of the organization and believe that I have something to learn from the experience because it engages my personal interest in helping move ideas to fruition and intersects with my administrative skills. I sincerely hope that I can be a contributor to the transformative efforts of ASALH.

Previous Service to ASALH:

My prior service to ASALH includes my first role as a member of my local branch as part of the planning for the 2018 conference which was held in Indianapolis, and I had the pleasure at that time of being installed as one of the founding members of the Joseph Taylor Branch. Since that time, I have served for the past four years as the Vice President and Membership Chair for the branch, and I have also assisted with programming and other duties as assigned by the President. As membership chair, I have been responsible for recruitment and maintenance of the chapter roster as well as assisting other members of the executive board to complete the annual branch report. Another area of service is related to outreach. I have leveraged my membership in a local chapter to cultivate a partnership and institutional membership in our branch, and I serve as a liaison to the group. Also, in my capacity as the Africana Studies Program director at IUPUI, I have integrated the branch into the fabric of the program and have successfully written the branch into grants. These strategic activities have assisted our branch in having a high profile in the local community and I plan to continue looking for avenues for promotion and exposure to the branch and the larger context of ASALH. Nationally, I

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have volunteered as a panel chair during national conferences and have attended national and regional virtual meetings in place of our president when needed. Currently I serve as the President of Joseph Taylor Branch and I serve on the ASALH Freedom School Strategic Planning Committee.

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