

## **The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship**

### **A Call for Nominations**

The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship was established at the University of Kansas in 1977 in honor of the African American poet, playwright and fiction writer who lived in Lawrence from 1903 to 1916. The visiting professorship—**open to scholars in all fields**—has attracted prominent or emerging ethnic minority scholars to the university campus, involving a broad range of disciplines and academic departments/schools. Nominations are welcome for the humanities, social sciences, all professional schools and STEM disciplines. This appointment provides the recipient with a stipend appropriate to the candidate's rank, a small travel allowance, and a modestly furnished apartment near the KU campus. Depending on their field of expertise, the Langston Hughes Professor will teach and conduct research during the semester of their appointment (this arrangement will be coordinated with the academic unit) and deliver a campus-wide lecture on a topic or issue related to their discipline.

#### **Nomination & Timeline**

This call for nominations will be for an appointment in the fall 2017 semester. Nominations may come from either an individual faculty member, department chair, or a dean. However, it is strongly recommended that coordination within an academic unit be administered and followed at the chair/dean level. More than one candidate may be nominated by an academic unit. There is no cost to the academic unit as the position is fully funded by the Provost Office. Nominations should be sent to Shawn Alexander, slalexan@ku.edu, by **MARCH 1, 2017**. (For a review of past recipients, please visit the Diversity & Equity website at: [www.diversity.ku.edu](http://www.diversity.ku.edu).)

#### **Documentation & Selection**

The nomination must include a cover letter of interest from the candidate, a current resume and a letter of support from the department chair and dean of the academic unit at KU. (Not required but suggested that a letter of support from the candidate's home institution be included as part of the file.)

Nominations will be reviewed by the Langston Hughes Committee. This committee simultaneously works with the specific department(s) to which the potential candidate(s) may be appointed. Once the committee decision is made, their recommendation is forwarded to the Provost for final approval.

#### **The KU Impact**

Eight past recipients are now tenured faculty members at KU – a direct result of their appointment to the Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship. The Professorship has not only been a valuable program for bringing scholars to the University but has also created an opportunity to engage the campus community in an annual lecture on a variety of topics and issues that otherwise would not have been provided.

*An artist must be free to choose what he does, certainly,  
but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose.*