



Office of Diversity, Inclusion
and Belonging

Position Title: Director of the Black Cultural Center

Location: West Lafayette, IN

Unit: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

About Purdue

Since its founding in 1869 Purdue University has lived out its land-grant commitments to expanding access and pursuing equity for the State of Indiana, the nation, and the world. From the 1890 graduation of its first Black student, George W. Lacey, to the active recruitment of African Americans during segregation, to ongoing efforts through the Equity Task Force, Purdue takes this work seriously.

Over the last 5 years, Purdue has led among R1 institutions in the graduation of Black doctoral students in the fields of agricultural public services, chemistry, computer science, engineering, statistics, and veterinary medicine. At the undergraduate level, Purdue has led among R1 institutions over the last five years in degrees conferred to Black students in mechanical engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, air transportation, plant biology, and vehicle maintenance and repair technology.

Looking to the future, [Purdue's Equity Task Force](#) initiative encompasses a \$75 million effort focused on increasing representation, improving the campus experience, and investing in success for Black Boilermakers. In coordination with an implementation team of campus leaders, units across campus are working to achieve goals outlined by the Board of Trustees.

About the Black Cultural Center

The Purdue Black Cultural Center (BCC) was founded in 1969 as an educational, event, and community-building location serving the entire campus and as a gathering space for Black and African American students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In 1999, the BCC relocated to a custom-built facility—the first on the campus to be designed by an African American architectural firm—with a focus on programming in the performing arts. Throughout its history, the BCC has hosted and sponsored countless events, programs, and activities in line with its mission to further education, awareness, and understanding among different cultures.

The BCC provides cultural education using a curriculum-based model that balances performance and social, political, and historical engagement with African American and African diasporic cultures and also hosts several performing arts ensembles that have been described as the heartbeat of the center. A robust annual programming calendar includes performances by the art ensembles, special guest speakers and events, collaborations with academic units around campus, and Cultural Lessons workshops, as well as guided facility tours that combine an exploration of the center with education about the architectural and artistic symbolism throughout the building.

Job Summary

The Director of the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategic vision that establishes the BCC as the epicenter of Black life, identity, thriving, and belonging on the West Lafayette campus.

Reporting to the Associate Vice Provost for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, the Director will be a forward-leaning, relationship-focused leader who will engage campus stakeholders, further collaborations in the local, state, regional, and national communities, and garner external support for creative initiatives that advance the representation, experience, and success of Black undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

The Director will also supervise an Assistant Director, who will provide day-to-day oversight of the Center, student groups and ensembles, and regular programming calendar. This is a full-time staff role with the potential for affiliate faculty status.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Design and implement a bold strategic vision for the Purdue Black Cultural Center to substantially increase the sense of belonging of Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni both among themselves and to the University.
- Expand the current focus of the BCC to create a sense of home for all Black Boilermakers while also honoring the historic centrality of the performing arts to the BCC's mission.
- Optimize utilization of the Center—an 18,500 square-foot building that honors both the dynamic vitality of African-American culture and the spirit of traditional African designs—as an academic, student success and engagement, cultural, gathering, and innovation space.
- Lead and facilitate institutional, regional, and national dialogues that advance Black excellence.
- Build strong, bilateral relationships with student, staff, faculty, and alumni groups focused on celebrating and improving the Black Boilermaker experience.
- Partner with the African American Studies and Research Center (AASRC) to foster mutually beneficial programs, courses, and dialogues that build on the University's commitment to critical thinking and open inquiry.
- Advocate for Black and African American students and manage the provision of advisory leadership to select Black student organizations.
- Facilitate Black Boilermaker yield activities and foster meaningful K-12 relationships to build Black student pipelines to Purdue.
- Secure funding from external and intramural sources to support strategic goals.
- Serve as an ambassador for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging as called upon.

Qualifications

- Master's degree required. Ph.D. preferred.
- Six (6) years of leadership experience in higher education or cultural/arts-organization administration.
- Demonstrated competency attending to the Black student experience and/or elevating Black voices in higher education settings.
- Significant experience using data-driven decision-making to advance strategic goals.
- Ability to inspire a shared vision and to inform and influence diverse stakeholders and collaborators.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including an ability to display diplomacy and sensitivity with all constituencies
- Exceptional writing and presenting skills, such as those necessary to engage effectively with diverse groups, including University leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, media, and other partners.
- Strong critical thinking, problem-solving, and project management skills, as well as the ability to prioritize work and effectively manage resources.
- Collaborative, collegial, and action-oriented management focus.

Location

- West Lafayette, IN

Additional Information:

- For full consideration please apply to this link: <https://bit.ly/3wYaGow>
- All new hires will be expected to follow Protect Purdue guidelines. To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/3DH3z6f>
- To learn more about Purdue's benefits summary <https://bit.ly/3DJE9os>
- Purdue will not sponsor employment authorization for this position
- A background check will be required for employment in this position
- FLSA: Exempt (Not Eligible For Overtime)
- Retirement Eligibility: Defined Contributions immediately
- Purdue University is an EOE/AA employer. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply