

PREMIERE ISSUE

JANUARY 2025

THE COLLECTIVE

ICLS 
International
Comparative
Labor Studies



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WELCOME

Welcome to *The Collective*, a new newsletter dedicated to connecting the ICLS community at Morehouse College with the people and programs that are shaping our neighborhoods, our country, and our world. Our goal is to share the incredible work being done by our students, faculty, staff, and community partners in exploring labor and unions. *The Collective* will also facilitate building bridges between academics, activists, and community leaders. We are committed to exploring solutions that empower working-class people and promote social justice. By working together, we can create a more fair and inclusive future for all.

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ICLS
International
Comparative
Labor Studies

Why Labor Studies?

Labor Studies: Creating Alliances With Leaders and Followers

The International Comparative Labor Studies (ICLS) program prepares students to transform the work life of African people here and worldwide — from constant struggle to fulfillment. It grew out of the sociology department at Morehouse College, an institution dedicated to bringing forth the best leadership from our Black community roots. We feel a camaraderie with the working mothers and fathers who supported us, and sisters and brothers who, when injustices overflow, burst forth with cries for justice.



Dr. Cynthia Hewitt

We also seek to ally with multinational workers' unions; a major source of support for our struggle has often been the solidarity of other working people. A brief look at history proves my point:

- Marcus Garvey built the Universal Negro Improvement Association, the largest Black organization ever with 3.4 million members, with the support of the Jamaican Typesetters' Union, the International Longshoremen Association (ILA), the Maritime Workers Union, and the Pullman Porters and Maids in the United States and across the Black world.
- We know that the amazing rise to independence of more than 35 African nations from 1957 – 1961 was the fruit of the Fifth Pan-African Congress (PAC). That gathering of Black nationalists struggling for freedom from colonialism or segregation was made possible by the meeting of the union conference, the Third International, which the Black delegates arrived to attend and then traveled nearby to be present at the 5th PAC.

ICLS seeks to lay the groundwork for such seismic change in our peoples' conditions. This is an organization of Black workers in alliance with all workers. ICLS understands that "organization" is not the same as mobilization or moving in lockstep.

In keeping with scholar-revolutionary Kwame Ture, ICLS understands that organization requires each person to understand the goal, its objectives, and acceptable strategies for reaching it. Through study and working together,

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we become clear on a set of shared principles. Once this is done, each is equipped to make the right decision, no matter how varied the mode of action or situation.

We recognize the value of the consistency, reliability, and attention to details that characterize the working man and woman, our sisters and brothers. Nothing big can be built without these traits that are often taken for granted by the intellectual leadership.

There are numerous leadership programs. Yet, ICLS recognizes the pivotal role of followership because there are no leaders without compatriots.

A Mayan Native American came to speak to us in Atlanta's West End, at a school for martial arts. He described the tradition that always places martial arts close to a place of spiritual worship, the temple of learning. Why? Because no one should be armed physically without being armed mentally and spiritually.

ICLS seeks to close the gap between mental and physical, followership and leadership. There are no blueprints. It's a new endeavor, a gift from our African legacy.

Dr. Cynthia Hewitt, Professor of Sociology and Faculty of the Sustainability minor and Africana Studies, currently is doing research in Africa.

Labor Studies: Empowering Scholars, Students, and the Community

Labor Studies, an interdisciplinary field that examines the history, theory, and practice of work, has emerged as a powerful tool for empowering scholars, students, and the community. By providing a critical lens through which to analyze labor relations, economic inequality, and social justice, Labor Studies equips individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for workers' rights and challenge systemic injustices.

Scholars in Labor Studies contribute significantly to our understanding of the labor movement, its evolution, and its impact on society. Through rigorous research and analysis, they shed light on the complex interplay between labor, capital, and the state. This knowledge is essential for developing effective policies and strategies. Moreover, Labor Studies scholars often engage in community-based research, collaborating with labor unions and community organizations to address wage inequality, workplace safety, and discrimination.

Students who study labor are exposed to a rich intellectual tradition that equips them with a deep understanding of the historical and contemporary challenges facing workers. This knowledge is invaluable for careers in labor relations, human resources, public policy, and, of course, social activism. Labor Studies programs also provide opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning, such as internships with labor unions or community organizations. These experiences help students develop practical skills and build relationships within the labor movement.

ICLS is striving to be a premier labor studies program in the U.S. South. We see ourselves and our work as a bridge between racial and class divides. Our programs for both our Morehouse students and the larger community will only grow in the coming years.

Racial equity is a central concern in our definition of Labor Studies. Historically, racial discrimination has been a significant barrier to economic opportunity and social mobility for people of color.

By Marc Bayard, an Associate Fellow and the director of the Institute for Policy Studies' Black Worker Initiative and senior advisor and chairperson of the ICLS Research Fellows Program at Morehouse College.



Marc Bayard





Remembrance: Labor Leader Bill Lucy Worked with Icons and Became One

A Tribute by Marc Bayard



Photo: Arlene Holt Baker

On September 25, 2024, the American Labor Movement and Civil Rights Movement lost a legend. William “Bill” Lucy, one of the most revered and respected Black labor leaders in the world, died. He was 90.

“Bill Lucy was a courageous labor leader who dedicated his life bending the arc of history toward justice,” President Joe Biden said. “No matter the title or the place, he worked tirelessly to advance civil rights and labor rights for all Americans, changing the course of history and redeeming the soul of America.”

Vice President Kamala Harris called Lucy a giant and a patriot.

“He dedicated his life to improving conditions for working families and advancing the cause of civil rights, human rights, and labor rights,” Harris said. “Lucy believed in the universal values of freedom, dignity, and solidarity.”

Lucy walked the intertwining roads of the U.S. labor and civil rights movements. He stood shoulder-to-shoulder with three generations of epochal leaders — from Martin Luther King Jr. to Nelson Mandela to President Barack Obama. In their marches for equal rights, treatises on freedom, and ascension to high office, these historic figures counted on Lucy’s passion, dedication, political savvy, and behind-the-scenes organizing.

Born November 26, 1933, in Memphis, Tennessee, Lucy studied civil engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in the early 1950s before taking a position with Contra Costa County, where he became a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1675. He became local president before leaving to work fulltime for AFSCME’s

Editor's Note: The famed labor leader helped launch International Comparative Labor Studies (ICLS) at Morehouse College in 2017. The William “Bill” Lucy Fund Award at Morehouse is conferred to support experiential learning — via an original organizing campaign, participation in other events, or research related to the labor movement. ICLS also provides accredited student internships. For more information, contact Ilana Lucas at ilana.lucas@morehouse.edu



‘Bill Lucy was a courageous labor leader ... He will forever be remembered for his unrelenting commitment to justice, fairness, and equality — at home and abroad.’

— President Joe Biden

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ICLS Seeking Greater Connection with The Motherland

Africa is a miracle: 11.7 million square miles sliced in two by the Equator; home to 1.4 billion people, who speak more than 2,000 languages; birthplace of human life, with fossils dating back more than four million years.

Contemporary visitors can marvel at weavers creating dazzling stunning Kente cloth in Kumasi, Ghana; experience camel rides and camping in the Sahara, which spans North Africa; or dine on spongy injera and spicy stews in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Foreign businesses and industries continue to salivate over an endless trove of precious and base metals, industrial minerals and gemstones — coltan, lithium, sapphires, phosphate, bauxite, copper, uranium, gold, platinum, and diamonds. In addition, Africa's diverse climates and arable land produces valuable cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, tea, cotton, sugar cane, and tropical fruits.

Among the world's continents, Africa is second by land area and population, but ranks fifth in GDP, behind Asia, North America, Europe, South America. Several factors contribute to this ranking, including neocolonialism, lack

of political unification, and dependence on commodities susceptible to foreign price-setting.

Bottom line: The challenges faced by political and traditional leaders are great. They must wisely manage their rich (but finite) mineral wealth; promote sustainable development that protects the environment and local villages; continually improve, roads, railways and ports; strengthen governance; end the miseducation of their economic systems serving foreign interests; and diversify their economies.

For Africa to create sustainable infrastructures for its commerce and cultures, a plethora of questions demand attention, including:

- Which type of economy – planned or free market – will ensure that Africa's customs and capital will benefit the people?

- Which model will best deal with poverty and income inequality?
- With about 60 percent of Africa's population under age 25, which system will effectively help with education and employment?
- And do such initiatives as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) serve to channel resources to the poor if run as a trade area?

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ICLS Seeking Greater Connection with The Motherland

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Dr. Cynthia Hewitt, a scholar, sociologist and director of International Comparative Labor Studies (ICLS) at Morehouse College, is well-acquainted with Africa. She has spent a couple of decades traveling, learning, and conducting research on its cultures and systems. Her recent attendance at the recent ICLS-sponsored Great Debate in Ghana, West Africa, is yet another steppingstone into future research on inclusive economies. She spoke to *Collective* Editor Mike Tucker about money and The Motherland via WhatsApp.



“The best economic system is one that’s organized by African people themselves.”

Tucker: You’re a sociologist by trade so, of course, you study interactions within groups and organizations. What led you to sponsor The Great Debate to explore if free market or planned economies are best for Africa?

Dr. Hewitt: *Morehouse prides itself on crafting leadership. In a world where the economy often directs the society, what’s economically powerful is what dominates our culture and our politics. There’s no way we can achieve the liberation and the sustainable well-being of our people if we do not take into hand the economics of our society. The economy and how it should be structured should be a part of everyone’s curriculum.*

What were your goals?

To explore how economies can be changed to be inclusive, particularly for African people on the continent and in the Diaspora, and how the path to change can be reflected in new economic theory to replace neoclassical economics; and raise awareness among African Americans that huge inequalities exist in Africa. Our engagement should not contribute to further advancing an elite ... and be oblivious to the condition of the masses. We should not act in ignorance.

In a free market economy prices and goods and services are determined by supply and demand. In a planned economy, the government controls how resources are allocated and sets prices for goods and services. Pretty straightforward.

The distinction being made between a planned economy and a free market economy is a bit of subterfuge. Planned economy in more common parlance is a socialist economy while we use free market economy as a stand-in for neoclassical economic structures. A free market came about to combat the idea of planning one’s economy towards socialism ... And when it’s free, it means it’s open to participation by any entity. Free markets are always good for strong producers who can produce things at the lowest price possible, but bad for any nation trying to come back from colonialism and begin producing small scale.





How can Africa with 54 countries achieve economic stability, sustainability, and development? Many African countries kind of adapt both. They're part free market and part planned.

Whenever formerly colonized lands appear to be moving themselves out of an exploitable situation, neocolonialism and imperialism step in to push back. The exploitation of Africa has continued in one form or another post-colonialism. And it is the goal of the core countries, these core capitalist countries, to continue to source their materials cheaply out of Africa and to sell their industrial goods.

Which means that free market has an automatic foothold in these countries.

It means that free market theory is what's promoted. If you don't open your market, they can punish you.

As a sociologist, what is your solution for the Africans struggling to find the best economic system for their people?

The best economic system is one that's organized by African people themselves ... a system that is prepared to deal with the global capitalist system as well. Economics are a global phenomenon, so you can't really understand what you need to do unless you understand the global scale, which is why International Comparative Labor Studies exists. For example, leaders developing their country might find that the price of oil goes sky high. It can derail everything if they don't see it coming. They might find that the price for cocoa they're exporting drops to the basement. Their country, you see, is totally impacted by what happens overseas. That's the international aspect.

And what about labor?

The wealth of a country is produced by its people. It might exist in the ground but its value is increased by the people who bring it out.

The people create the wealth.

Yes, but that doesn't mean it comes back to them. It can be exported, the value achieved, and then spent on the upper five percent or one percent. So, how is labor compensated and how is the global economy structured? These two questions we must answer.

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PHOTO ABOVE: DR. HEWITT AT THE ROYAL WOMAN CONFERENCE IN ACCRA. PHOTO BELOW: PROF. KENNETH A. NEWBY, ESQ., DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS AT MOREHOUSE, CONFERS WITH DR. HEWITT DURING THE GREAT DEBATE.





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How can we get answers with Africa's natural and agricultural resources dependent on Western markets? And can you expect a smooth transition to a planned or free market economy given that circumstance?

Advocates for a free market economy are usually those who are winners. The United States was the winner after World War II and especially around 1965. By 1970, it evolved the total ideology of free market.

And other countries?

The countries that came up to compete with the U.S. didn't buy that theory. Even Vietnam, which was on its knees after an extensive war, has stood up under the planned economy model, which collects the capital and then directs the capital, not to personal gain, but to develop it.

You've been traveling conducting research in Africa for years. Where does the world's second largest continent belong in the world's economic structure? And how can it gain its rightful place given its size and scope?

It's very important to Africa's future that we think about labor, think about ourselves globally, and think about ourselves in our long history, recorded there for over 10,000 years.

You believe Africa possesses a "cultural treasure trove."

About how people can get along with each other, how social relationships can be shaped, how we can be

sustainable within the environment, how we can consider the planet. African spirituality emphasizes that all things are one, that the unknown one or the origin of everything that exists in its multiplicity today is one common source and hence everything is part of the same.

How do we get everyone—African leadership, African people, laborers, teachers, etc.—moving in the same direction?

There's no single recipe, but I think the hope lies in each new generation.

Are you still dedicated to making ICLS a leadership model in Ghana so all of Africa understands what ICLS is about?

I'd like to see ICLS bring together more youths in the debates, because they open minds, allowing them to see both sides of an issue ... because we really need to understand why we choose the sides we choose. Also, a lot of the literature that's available in America, is not available in Africa. We have to expand our role in bringing knowledge of self and of our mission. Our books, our literature contain mission. They must be available in translation—all possible because of our digital lives.



Meet Dr. Taura Taylor: Question Everything

‘Sociology gives me tools to help push, because that’s the thing I want to do,’ says the new ICLS interim director. ‘I want to push against the inequities of our society.’

Dr. Taura Taylor wants everyone on the Morehouse campus, in the surrounding communities, and around the world to know one thing: “ICLS is dedicated to local and international labor dignity,” says the sociology professor and researcher. “We understand that inclusive economy, cooperative development, and Pan-African solidarity are cornerstones of community sustainability and global coalition.”

It is a mandate she puts front and center as interim director of ICLS, an appointment that runs through next September while Dr. Cynthia Hewitt is on sabbatical. In addition to day-to-day management, Dr. Taylor will interface with on- and off-campus programs while continuing her work promoting labor studies in the South.

Dr. Taylor earned a B.B.A. in finance from Howard University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in sociology from Georgia State University. She took time to talk with *Collective* Editor Mike Tucker about her passions to understand people, their culture, and empowerment. Here are excerpts from the interview:

Tucker: Sociology seems a perfect fit for you.

Dr. Taylor: *I am very inquisitive about the way that we live. And I’m very inquisitive about the way we think. I’m inquisitive about our knowledge. I’m inquisitive about our culture. I’m inquisitive about our creativity. But I’m also particularly inquisitive about rules and status quos that we accept. Who created them? How do we recreate them? And how do we challenge them? Sociology gives me a discipline to think critically about my world, to think creatively ... and to feel like I have a science, a tool, a knowledge base to effectively understand it, make sense of it, but also challenge it.*

When I was in Houston reporting on restoration efforts after a hurricane, I asked local pastors about corporate help in the clean up. Most reacted with a smile.

Dr. Taylor: *As if accepting help from a corporation had a type of drawback, right? That they would have to give up something or compromise the empowerment of doing what they want to do.*

‘ICLS is dedicated to local and international labor dignity.’

One pastor flatly said, “We’ve been preparing for this. We got it.”

That’s agency—to act on one’s will, to act on the desires that one has. They had a collective of their own and it’s reflected in the language—not I got it, but we got it. We’re social beings. We draw livelihood and inspiration from each other.

That’s empowerment.

Something that you desire and despite an organization’s desire to act against you, you’re still able to do it. For example, I want to see the minimum wage raised to \$25. Of course, there are groups out there that don’t want to see that. But if we come together collectively and we work on it and we get to manifest it, we as one, are empowered and believing and thinking we can get it. Being able to achieve it, that is our power. Even though there might be others out there that are trying to stop us or institutions or laws to fend us off ... that is really power and empowerment.

You’re a member of society that experiences the double-whammy—Black and female.

You’re touching on intersectionality.

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Meet Dr. Taura Taylor:

Question Everything

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How social identities intersect and create unique experiences in privilege and bias.

I'm Black, I'm a woman, but I'm educated. I'm a citizen of the United States. I'm a cisgendered woman. As much as I experienced inequalities and disparities, I also experienced certain privileges in our society. I've also experienced being looked over for a home mortgage. I've experienced gentrification in my neighborhood. I live it and then I study it.

Can you share a revelation?

My new perspective is me thinking about what privileges I have in this society that I didn't do anything for, but I think are normalized. What privileges do I have that I can use to advocate for others? I'm a Black educated woman. I have experiences that a Black woman without a Ph.D. does not have. What inequalities are affecting people who are working class or uneducated? How do I advocate for people who are immigrants, whether they are documented or not?

Asking these questions of ourselves and our institutions are vital.

I don't want to make it seem like it's unimportant to address our inequality and our oppression because there are real consequences to our experiences. But we live in a stratified society that benefits by having us all squabble over what we think we don't have. Meanwhile, we're also occupying these positions where we have a privilege that we may or may not have earned.

Remembrance: Labor Leader Bill Lucy Worked with Icons and Became One

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national office, where he took a leadership role in strikes and job actions during a period of increasing activism among public sector workers.

He worked and marched with Morehouse College alumni, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the famous Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike of 1968. Lucy with local partners devised the now iconic civil rights slogan, "I am a Man," to show that the Black workers were demanding dignity and respect on the job.

Lucy was one of the founders of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in 1972 and that same year rose to become international secretary-treasurer (the number two position) of the 1.4-million-member AFSCME. As the highest-ranking African American in the U.S. labor movement, his contributions have reverberated throughout some of the greatest social and political movements in the United States and the world. Cited frequently by *Ebony* magazine as one of "The 100 Most Influential Black Americans," Lucy has been a catalyst within the civil rights, human rights, and labor movements, and in national politics.

In the 1980s, U.S. labor unions (Black workers, in particular) fought to end South Africa's racial apartheid system. In solidarity with anti-apartheid workers in South Africa, Lucy and other labor leaders organized boycotts, implemented educational campaigns, proposed legislation, and demonstrated in the streets.

Lucy was central to the founding of the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) in the mid-1980s, a movement that would be pivotal in breaking U.S. support for the apartheid regime. He was the critical bridge between labor unions, Black workers, and anti-apartheid activists.

He was the first African American president of Public Services International (PSI), the world's largest union federation, and served on the executive council of the AFL-CIO, the federation's highest decision-making body.

Lucy retired as AFSCME secretary-treasurer in 2010 after 38 years in the position. At the International Convention held in Boston that year, he urged AFSCME delegates to continue the fight for social justice.

"We've always known that there's a crisis," he said. "It may be more intense now, but there's always been a crisis for millions of people not as lucky as we are in this room. There's a daily crisis in their lives, as they struggle to put bread on their tables, to put clothes on their backs, to have a roof over their heads. We have a responsibility to help them out."

By Marc D. Bayard is a senior advisor and chairperson of the International Comparative Labor Studies Research Fellows Program at Morehouse College and is working on a biography of Lucy.

'Lucy was central to the founding of the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) in the mid-1980s, a movement that would be pivotal in breaking U.S. support for the apartheid regime.'

ICLS Forges Partnership with CUNY

A one-of-a-kind program offers a dynamic experience for up to four students per semester

If you can imagine spending a semester in the Big Apple learning from and working with leading labor experts, the **New York Union Semester** is your ticket to a unique semester-long internship. The offering is a collaboration of International Comparative Labor Studies (ICLS) at Morehouse College and the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies-The City University of New York.

For more information, contact: N. Renee GrierCalhoun, ICLS, 470-639-0608; Norma.GrierCalhoun@morehouse.edu

Union Semester participants come from a variety of majors seeking a variety of career options in the labor movement, public policy, teaching, law, social work, economics, and journalism. New York City and its collection of diverse and dynamic unions creates a matchless experience for interns as they learn the inner workings of unions, sharpen analytic skills, and obtain professional experience.

"It can complement your major in every possible way," says Dejaun Wright, a recent Union Semester intern and senior philosophy major at Morehouse. "It can complement your ideas about your future. When we talk about labor and we talk about class, we're not just talking about unions."

Wright says the knowledge gained in the program meshed perfectly with his Morehouse education.

"I'm concentrating on social philosophy, trying to understand why class exists and how class under capitalism came to be," says Wright, a political science minor. "One of the biggest things I've learned while at CUNY is the idea of how capitalism imposes or dictates what type of labor and what type of class you can be in."

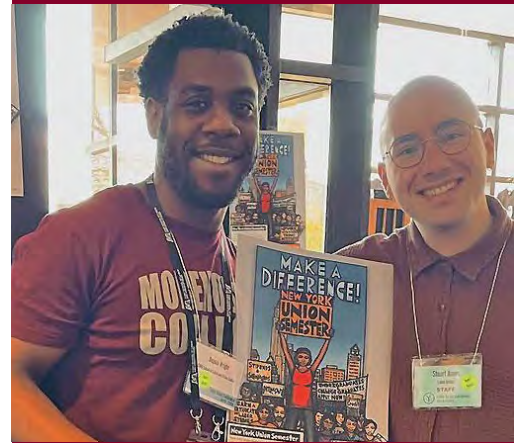
There was even study of the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike, which Dr. Martin Luther King addressed the night before his April 4 assassination. Dr. King, who received his bachelor's in sociology and taught philosophy at Morehouse, hoped his Poor People's Campaign would bring national attention to the plight of the striking workers.

"His involvement was very significant to the labor world," says Wright. And it was one of the launchpads for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."



Wright says the internship provided "a larger grasp of a lot of subjects ... from the legal perspective, the political perspective, and economic perspective where we learned how politics got involved with labor." Bottom line: He deemed the experience "significant."

**Inquire now about
this unique
Labor Studies
Internship for
Fall 2025**



**"It can complement
your major in every
possible way."**

*Dejaun Wright, recent intern
and current Morehouse
philosophy major*

**Learn More About
Union Semester Here**





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Who should apply to Union Semester?

Union Semester is excellent preparation for students interested in a wide range of career paths. The program is especially well suited for students who are interested in careers in the labor movement, public policy, teaching, law, social work, economics, journalism, advocacy, or any other occupation that requires an understanding of contemporary labor issues. Union Semester applicants are self-motivated students with a real interest in the labor movement and a commitment to social justice. We accept students from a wide array of majors, and with many diverse interests.

Participate!

Only in New York

New York City is one of the strongest labor cities in the country. The city's unions are diverse and vibrant, playing an active role in the politics and social life of the city. Students interning with a union or affiliated organization will learn how labor unions work towards improving the lives of their members and creating a better society.

Why Participate in Union Semester?

- Develop a deeper understanding of the labor movement and the inner workings of unions
- Sharpen analytic skills and knowledge
- Obtain professional experience to build your path to a career in labor and social justice
- Earn transferable credits
- Combine an academic background in labor studies with exposure to related fields including law, economics, history, or political science
- Receive an educational award to help cover tuition and fees

Contact Us For More Information

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**CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR
AND URBAN STUDIES**



Visit by Queen Mother Boosts ICLS Ties to Ghana

During a recent visit to Morehouse College, where she was greeted as royalty, the President of the All Regions Queen Mothers Association of Ghana vowed to enhance the bonds between Ghana and our renowned HBCU.

"I'm going to bring Ghana to Morehouse, and I'll send Morehouse to Ghana. Why? Because Africa belongs to Black people and Africa is where you feel welcome. Africa is where you'll be treated like a king and a queen," said Nana Otubea II, Paramount Queen Mother of Nkonya, Oti Region, one of 16 regions in Ghana, West Africa.

The Queen Mother brought spirited appeals for the Morehouse community to enhance a relationship with Africa, calling for visits and relocation to a land that will feel like home.

"We are not respected as a Black race in the world," she said. "I want to inform the youth here that they are still an untapped treasure in Africa. They should come and help build Africa."

Ghana's Oti Region features almost 750,000 people of diverse ethnicity with stunning landscapes and iconic heritage. The economy is mostly agricultural (maize, cassava, yam, and rice) plus fishing and poultry. Tourists can attend a variety of festivals and visit scenic Shiare Waterfalls, which offers forests, mountain views, hiking and cultural exhibitions.

According to news reports, Nana is advocating for wider participation by Queen Mothers in Ghanaian authority, beyond the traditional ceremonial roles. Her recent talks with key government officials, the reports said, focused on bridging the gender gap to improve community welfare and governance. And as president of the All Regions Queen Mothers Association of Ghana, she has encouraged her colleagues to learn more about the legislative process.

In an interview with *The Collective* during her Morehouse visit, she stressed that it was essential that queen mothers must continue to evolve beyond window dressing to be the bridge between the people and politicians deciding policies on agriculture and use of natural resources.

"Before, queen mothers were not even allowed to voice certain things. They were noted for gracing occasions," she said. "When it came to decision making, business transactions, budgeting for what the community needed, we were pushed aside."

Now, she said, they are more outspoken in their role as activists.

"We speak up on behalf of the people," she said, smiling. "Moving from ceremony to authority. That's what I advocated for."



"Queen Mothers must continue to evolve beyond window dressing to be the bridge between the people and politicians."

- Nana Otubea II, Paramount Queen Mother



"I'm going to bring Ghana to Morehouse, and I'll send Morehouse to Ghana."

- Nana Otubea II,
Paramount Queen Mother, Nkonya
Traditional Area



COMMUNITY · TRADITION · AFFIRMATION

Get it all at Crown Forum, a Morehouse College Signature event ...

February 27, 2025, 11 a.m.

LOCATION:

MLK International Chapel Morehouse College

ICLS Crown Forum:

Guest and Keynote Speaker is

Fred Redmond,

Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO



About Fred Redmond

Mr. Redmond is the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. On June 13, 2022, he was unanimously elected to the position as the highest ranking African American officer in the history of America's labor movement. Redmond has spent his entire life fighting for racial justice in the workplace and throughout our communities.

About Crown Forum

Crown Forum is a communal tradition that is mandatory for all students and that extends from the 19th century founding of the School to the 21st-century Institution of today. The spiritual core of Crown Forum provides a grounding space where students are connected to and develop their dynamic humanity.



WEBSITE

For more information, navigate to:
[https://morehouse.edu/events/signature-
events/crown-forum](https://morehouse.edu/events/signature-events/crown-forum) on the website;
or write crown.forum@morehouse.edu



EMAIL

**‘The union taught me how to fight
for what I needed and what I had,
and if it was something I wanted,
how to go after it.’**

*- Hattie Canty, who in 1990 became the
first Black woman elected president of
the Culinary Workers Union.*

**‘No work is insignificant.
All labor that uplifts humanity
has dignity and importance
and should be undertaken with
painstaking excellence.’**

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, iconic civil
rights leader, Baptist minister, and
Morehouse College alumnus.*

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Comparative
Labor Studies



Just as ancient Egyptian scribes were inspired by Jehwty (a.k.a. Thoth), the deity of knowledge and writing, *The Collective* hopes the stories presented will inform and inspire.



ICLS Research Publications

ICLS explores various topics to expand knowledge, ask new questions, and launch new research, an integral part of our program. We view research as a bridge to greater truths that will lead to a more equitable workforce and society. Scan the QR Code to download or read the publication that interests you.



Upcoming Events

January 3-16, 2025

**ICLS Minor Sponsors a
J-Mester Course:**

The History of Unions, Contract Administration and Cutting Edge Labor and Civil Rights Issues.

February 27, 2025, 11 a.m.

LOCATION:

MLK INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

**ICLS Crown Forum: Guest and
Keynote Speaker is Fred Redmond,
Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO.**

March 2025

**ICLS Family Institute
(Details pending)**