

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences
Division of Fine Arts
Department of Theatre Arts

February 21, 2019

Ofosuwa Abiola, PhD
Department of Theatre Arts
Howard University
Washington, DC 20059

Dear Dr. Abiola,

It is with great pleasure that I offer congratulations on the success of the February 9th and 10th 2019 Nankama African Dance Conference which you organized and spear-headed. The two-day conference, with its offerings of scholarly presentations and dance and drumming workshops, was well-attended by students, faculty and community members and boasted instruction by internationally acclaimed master artist/teachers like Moustapha Bangoura from Guinea and Asane Konte from Senegal.

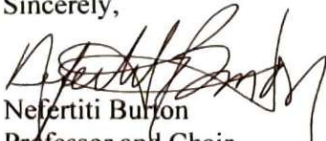
Your selection of presenters for the scholarly panels was impeccable. Their research, teaching, and practice encompassed a variety of styles, regions, and cultural histories, and each of the sessions was unique, engaging, and enlightening. The panelists shared their experience, research and perspectives on Africana dance with clarity and enthusiasm, and the combination of lecture, discussion, videotaped and live performance was especially effective in providing their presentations with detail and specificity.

The second day of the conference was exhausting yet exhilarating. The guest artists - all master teachers of dance and drum - were relentless in their commitment to transmitting as much of their knowledge as the participants could absorb. The students and community members were clearly up to the challenge, for though the workshops lasted into the evening, their enthusiasm never waned.

Your vision of what an African dance conference on Howard's campus could and should offer participants was realized in full. Your tremendous energy and vision brought together human and material resources from a variety of campus units including the Bunche Center, the African Studies Center, the Department of World Languages and Cultures, and of course, the Department of Theatre Arts.

Without such artful leadership and collaboration, the Nankama Conference could not have come to pass. On behalf of the Department of Theatre Arts I thank you and look forward to next year's Nankama African Dance Conference.

Sincerely,


Nefertiti Burton
Professor and Chair

2455 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20059



Telephone 202 806 7050
Facsimile 202 806 9193
www.howard.edu