

President Frank E. Horton
and
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Judy G. Hample
cordially invite you
to a reception for

Dr. Abdul Alkalimat
Director of Africana Studies

on
Monday, October 28, 1996
The University of Toledo
Driscoll Center
Dining Room A & B
5 to 7 p.m.

First of all I would like to express my thanks for support and encouragement from President Horton, Vice President Hample, Dean Cummins, Dr. Atwater, Dr. Cole, Dr. Patterson, Representative Ford and many others who have assisted me and made me feel at home here at the University of Toledo and in this community. It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to be here as the new Director of Africana Studies.

There is an old saying, be careful what you ask for you just might get it. The UT students demanded Africana Studies and now with the wisdom of the University they got it. Now we intend to make something great out of it, to make good things happen.

I have a very brief statement, but one that speaks to the heart of what we intend to do. Our main theme is "**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.**" By academic excellence we mean that our courses will uphold the finest tradition of scholarship and our professors will carry out the finest programs of research along with the very

best of the entire university. We will embrace and live up to the core values of the university. By social responsibility we are committed to making the community a better place in which to live. We are advocates of change and improvement. Racism is bad for the mental and physical health of the victims and the perpetrators alike and it must be understood and liquidated.

Our program will be innovative as we plan on building our Africana Studies Program in cyberspace. Our students will be experts with computer technology and the Internet. But more than that we will be coming after many of you as we want to assist in the "wiring of the Black community" here in Toledo but also in South Africa and Jamaica. The key to the 21st century is the Internet where all of us can travel at warp speed. Either we get moving or we get left behind. You can count on the Africana Studies Program and the University of Toledo to be your gateway to the future.

More directly we will be initiating a research program on the Black community of Toledo. We intend to train our students while simultaneously giving service to meet your needs. We can't solve any problems, but we can clarify them, present systematic empirical data that enables us to analysis the problems, and we can work with you to sum up your grasp of the problem. Then, we can assist community leaders in a process of policy formulation and advocacy. We want to be your research arm, one that commands respect and trust for our scholarship and our commitment.

Again, I am very appreciative for this wonderful occasion and will strive to live up to the great challenge of this position. Keep your eyes on us, good things are about to happen real soon.