

Outstanding Diversity Advocate Award

Dr. Jesse Benjamin, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, and African and African Diaspora Studies, is the recipient of the Outstanding Diversity Advocate Award. Dr. Benjamin has been a life long advocate for social justice in his writing and research as well as his action. He's brought attention to the unique intellectual and material needs of indigenous communities, often speaking of the need to honor tribal knowledges and ways of life. In an effort to connect undergraduates to issues of social justice, Dr. Benjamin created and directed the African African Diaspora Studies Student Research and Engagement Conference, which featured leading Africana speakers from within the US and attracted over 500 KSU students. Most recently, Dr. Benjamin created the Annual Walter Rodney Speakers Series, based on the work and life of this speaker writer for Martin Luther King Jr., which connected KSU and Atlanta University Center students in learning about civil rights history. It should be no surprise, then, that Dr. Benjamin received the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Diversity Award in 2015, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Dialogue Diversity Award in 2013, and now, this the university-wide Outstanding Diversity Advocate Award this year.