



SSU President and Faculty Strengthen Ties to Universities in the Republics of Liberia and Ghana

Savannah State University (SSU) President Cheryl D. Dozier is visiting three institutions in West Africa to establish research, study abroad, summer experience and exchange program opportunities.

SSU is an institutional member of the University Consortium for Liberia (UCL), an organization founded by the honorary counsel general for the Republic of Liberia, Cynthia L. Blandford, and the Liberian Embassy in the United States. The purpose of the UCL is to institutionalize a framework through which U.S.-based colleges, universities and other academic-related organizations involved in Liberia can network; exchange information; collaborate on global initiatives and projects; and establish research partnerships, study abroad and summer experience opportunities, student and faculty exchange programs. The UCL consists of 20 institutions and organizations, including 15 colleges and universities in Georgia.

In Ghana, Dr. Dozier will join SSU Social Work Professor Roenia Deloach and six SSU students, who are spending the spring semester at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology as part of an exchange program. At KNUST, Dr. Dozier will meet with the vice chancellor, provosts, deans, chairs, faculty and students. They will evaluate the partnership between Savannah State University and KNUST and discuss ways to improve the study abroad and exchange programs.

In Liberia, Dr. Dozier and a delegation of SSU professors will meet with academic and governmental officials. The delegation includes Dr. Deloach; Terri Clay and Norbert Chandler, assistant professors in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management degree program; and Dr. Samuel Dolo, professor of mathematics. At the University of Liberia, Dr. Dozier will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with President Emmet Dennis and meet with university officials and students. At the African Methodist Episcopal University, she will meet with the university's president, Dr. Joseph Isaac; senior leaders; faculty and students to establish the foundation for a strong cooperative agreement between the two institutions. The SSU delegation will also meet with the U.S. ambassador to Liberia, the USAID director for Liberia, as well as Liberia's vice president and foreign minister. The faculty members will explore the possibility of establishing academic and training programs in Liberia. Mr. Wilfred T. Harris, President and Founder of the Liberian American Partnership Initiative, is the on-site coordinator in Liberia.

Savannah State offers study-abroad programs in Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Egypt, India, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Liberia.

Established in 1890, Savannah State University is the oldest public historically black college or university in Georgia and the oldest institution of higher learning in the city of Savannah. The university's 4,800 students select majors from 26 undergraduate and five graduate programs in three colleges -- Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration; Science and Technology -- and the School of Teacher Education.