

## Naomi Tutu joins faculty to provide diversity education

By Annabelle Hardy  
STAFF WRITER

Africana studies scholar and human rights activist Naomi Tutu will join the UNC Asheville faculty as a senior lecturer next school year.

"She brings an incredible range of experience in working with diverse populations across Africa and has a very powerful personal history. As well, she has a familiarity with both African and American educational systems," said Ed Katz, UNC Asheville Dean for Diversity Programs.



Naomi Tutu

Tutu is the daughter of South African anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu and was chairperson of the Tutu Peace Foundation, according to the Center for Partnership Studies. Next semester she will teach a Modern Africa course in the Africana Studies Department as well as Gender and Economic Development in the Third World in the Women's Studies Department.

"She can provide our students with a very powerful set of experiences and viewpoints as they are

pursuing their studies," Katz said.

Tutu is a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky and earned her Master of Arts degree in International Economic Development from the University of Kentucky, according to the Center for Partnership Studies. She worked at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, Brevard College and Tennessee State University.

Tutu is currently working in international student programming at Tennessee State University and will join UNC Asheville's faculty next fall.

"I think that this is a good example of the university's broader commitment to diversity and to engaging the issue of both faculty recruitment and student retention," Katz said.

Other members of the university community also hope bringing Tutu to campus will help increase diversity in a meaningful way. UNC Asheville does a good job talking about the need for diversity and recognizing its importance, but there is sometimes a lack of meaningful

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Intentionally hiring staff who



TREY BOUVIER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A student ambassador leads a group of prospective UNC Asheville students and their parents earlier this week. While UNC Asheville struggles with bringing in a more diverse group of students each year, students and staff hope the addition of Naomi Tutu as a senior lecturer, will help the community grapple with the difficult issue. Tutu will teach a special topics class called Modern Africa on Tuesdays and Thursdays this fall.

action being taken to really address the issue, according to UNC Asheville Alumna Kim Gentry.

"I believe UNCA wants to create a diverse environment, but I also think that people don't realize the types of fundamental changes that need to be made in order to make that happen. Recruiting faculty with diverse, international perspectives is a good step," Gentry said.

Intentionally hiring staff who

represent a larger spectrum of the population, not just race, but other areas as well, is integral in creating a campus that is truly being diverse, not just one that is talking about diversity, according to Gentry.

Tutu's recruitment to UNC Asheville came from a university task force created to look into further enhancing the Africana Studies program, which currently offers a minor program, according to Katz.

"The task force is looking towards development opportunities for the program," Katz said.

Students and community members alike will benefit from Tutu's position at UNC Asheville because many locales take advantage of the lectures offered at the university as well as the special events and speaker's series events, according to local resident Daniel Fitch.

"Colleges are a big part of the culture of a place. If UNCA's

working to be more diverse then it can create a ripple effect and maybe Asheville can also learn to recognize its diversity a little more," Fitch said.

"She seemed to be a powerful and passionate speaker," Fitch said. "I would think students would be lucky to take classes with her. I would."



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