

Board of Directors

Immediate Past Chair



Dr. Neal A. Lester

Tempe

Dean of Humanities, Arizona State University

DR. NEAL A. LESTER is the Dean of Humanities at Arizona State University. Prior to being named Dean, he was a professor of English at Arizona State University since the fall 1997. His area of specialization is African American literary and cultural studies. Dr. Lester earned his B.A. in English from State University of West Georgia and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Vanderbilt University. He has published on and taught courses in African American children's literature, African American drama, African American folklore, African American images in American cinema, and black/ white interracial intimacies in American culture.

A popular public speaker and discussion facilitator, Dr. Lester has an extensive record of publications, lectures, editorships, and public interviews. Over the course of his twenty-year professional career, Dr. Lester has received numerous teaching awards and recognitions, including Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (1993), Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award (1996), and "Distinguished Finalist" for the Professor of the Year (2001). In 2001, Dr. Lester was named "Distinguished Public Scholar" by the [Arizona Humanities Council](#), for his work both inside and outside the classroom. Dr. Lester was a recipient of the "Last Lecture" Award (2002), the [Arizona State University Parents Association Professor of the Year](#) (2003), the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean's Distinguished Professorship (2004), and Foundation Professorship (2007). Dr. Lester currently serves a two-year term as chair of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Humanities Council and became dean of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in August 2010.

Related Links

Provost Names Neal Lester Dean of Humanities -

http://asunews.asu.edu/20100830_humanitiesdean

ASU Professor Discusses African American Hair Culture -

http://asunews.asu.edu/20091009_Lester

NPR Interview Here & Now: Race,,And Hair? -

http://kjzz.org/news/arizona/archives/201010/hn_lester

David Bottoms Distinguished Alumni Award - http://asunews.asu.edu/20100525_neallester