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## PRESS RELEASE

The Florida Africana Studies Consortium is pleased to announce that Prof. Carole Boyce Davies has been appointed the Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters at Cornell University, effective 1 July, 2020, a professorship named after the 9th and longest serving president of Cornell under whose leadership “the percentage of minority students grew from 8 percent in 1977 to 28 percent in 1994. The number of women and minority members of the faculty more than doubled. In 1995 the building that houses what was then known as the Cornell Theory Center was named Frank H. T. Rhodes Hall. Besides a professorship honoring Rhodes; Frank H.T. Rhodes, in 2010, the University also created new postgraduate student fellowships named after Rhodes to support students committed to the field of public interest law, and enable them to gain in-depth experience in work on behalf of the poor, the elderly, the homeless, and those deprived of civil rights. According to former Cornell graduate student Dr. Siga Jagne, now Commissioner of Gender of ECOWAS: "As President of the African Students Association, he invited me to the special dinners and meetings he had with Cornell donors so we could have one on one discussions on our needs and the importance of diversity at Cornell.

Carole Boyce-Davies has held distinguished professorships at a number of other universities such as the Herskovits Professorship at Northwestern University (2000) and was appointed to the Kwame Nkrumah Chair at the University of Ghana, Legon (2015). She has also been the recipient of The Franz Fanon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Caribbean Philosophical Association and the Distinguished Africanist Award from the New York State African Studies Association.

The author of the prize-winning *Left of Karl Marx. The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* (2008) and the classic *Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject* (1994) and *Caribbean Spaces. Escape Routes from Twilight Zones* (2013) which was long-listed for the OCM-BOCAS Prize, dealing with the issue of transnational migration and the internationalizing of Caribbean culture. A bi-lingual children’s story *Walking/An Awaan* (2016/2017) recaptures the adventures of a typical walking character in the Caribbean. In addition to over a hundred journal essays, articles and encyclopedia entries, Dr. Boyce Davies has also published thirteen critical editions on African, African Diaspora and Caribbean literature and culture including the 3-volume *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora* (2008). Her new project is *Black Women’s Rights: Political leadership in the African Diaspora* to be published by Lexington Books of Rowman and Littlefield in 2021.