Position Announcement

University of Michigan
Director of the Trotter Multicultural Center

The University of Michigan, the state’s public flagship university and one of the preeminent research universities, seeks an energetic leader, skilled administrator, and collaborative campus partner to serve as director of the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center.

From the time of its founding in 1817, the University of Michigan has developed into a national model of a complex, diverse, and comprehensive institution of higher learning that supports excellence in research; provides outstanding undergraduate, graduate, and professional education; and demonstrates commitment to public service and engagement. It is one of only two institutions consistently ranked among the nation’s top ten public universities. Many of its departments and professional schools are ranked among the top ten in the country. The University has an annual budget of over $10.7 billion and an endowment of $17 billion, among the largest in the nation. The Ann Arbor campus is located 35 miles southwest of Detroit, with regional campuses located in the cities of Dearborn and Flint.

The William Monroe Trotter House officially opened its doors as a Black student cultural center in 1971 and was named after publisher and civil-rights activist William Monroe Trotter. In 1981, the mission of the Trotter House was expanded to serve all students and, in 2004, its name was changed to the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center. In the fall of 2018, the Trotter Center moved to a specially designed 20,000-square-foot building located at the heart of the University’s central campus. The Trotter Center serves as an iconic and programmatic symbol for all students, as an open and inclusive facility that fosters intercultural engagement and strengthens connections between and among communities, as a supportive home and environment to those committed to social justice and diversity, and as a space that celebrates the tradition and history of the Center and the activism of students.

The director of the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center will be responsible for developing, directing, and administering all operations, programming, services, and resources that advance the mission of the Trotter Center and the core values of the University of Michigan and its Division of Student Life. Characteristic duties and responsibilities include: envisioning the next era of excellence and innovation for the Trotter Multicultural Center and working with students, faculty, staff, senior administrators, alumni, and other stakeholders to establish support and capacity to implement this vision; partnering with academic and administrative units to enhance student development, intercultural education, and campus inclusion; working with multiple stakeholders to provide physical space for activities, programs, and intellectual exchanges that engage diverse perspectives and identities, promote cultural competence, enrich campus climate, and foster a culture of mutual respect and inclusion; working creatively with others to anticipate and provide constructive responses to challenging student and community issues; overseeing facility operations, marketing, reservation processes, maintenance, security, and other functions; managing the unit’s budget and supporting fundraising and grant development efforts; and coordinating the assessment and continuous improvement of operations, programs, and services. In addition, the director will provide oversight for assigned divisional diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and will be expected to partner with the Center for Campus Involvement to support and expand existing interfaith work on campus to reflect and support religious, spiritual, and secular identities on campus. Reporting to the associate vice president for student development, learning and social change, the director will supervise two full-time staff and provide strategic direction to the
overall team, which comprises, six FTE’s and approximately 40 graduate and undergraduate student staff and interns. The director is responsible to develop a budget for the Center in collaboration with the student life budget and finance office, and is responsible to manage the $950k budget and be a good steward of the Center’s finances. The facility is open to the public seven days a week, and houses classes, events, and study spaces, as well as reflection rooms.

Minimum requirements include a master’s degree in higher education or a related field and eight years of directly related experience; a doctorate is preferred. The University of Michigan is seeking a thoughtful, energetic, and highly collaborative administrator who demonstrates a deep understanding and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and measurable achievement in addressing the challenges of a diverse student body. The successful candidate will possess experience gathering and using data to inform decisions and improve outcomes. The ideal candidate will demonstrate understanding and significant experience working within diverse student communities in an advisory capacity and/or via programmatic development. Further, the successful candidate will have experience managing culture change within higher education organizations. The position requires an experienced leader of people and programs who communicates effectively, manages resources wisely, acts with the highest degree of integrity, and inspires the confidence and trust of others. The ideal candidate will possess and have the ability to display interpersonal skills, diplomacy, political savvy, and sensitivity to engage effectively with all constituencies, build consensus for change, and thrive in a highly complex and decentralized environment.

The University of Michigan has retained the services of Spelman Johnson, a leading national executive search firm, to assist with leading this search. Review of applications will begin Friday, March 11, 2022 and continue until the position is filled. A resume with an accompanying cover letter may be submitted via the Spelman Johnson website at www.spelmanjohnson.com/open-positions. Nominations for this position may be emailed to Quincy Martin III at qm3@spelmanjohnson.com or Roxanna Cruz at rpc@spelmanjohnson.com. Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in the application process should contact Spelman Johnson at 413-529-2895.

Visit the University of Michigan website at www.umich.edu.

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