



Plenary Presentation At KNIC4 by Ama Mazama - Famed Afrocentric Organizing Activist and Scholar

Presentation Topic:

Afrocentricity International and the Spiritual Quest for a United African People

The mission of Afrocentricity International: Afrocentricity International supports the economic, cultural and educational elevation of African people in an effort to create cultural consciousness. Its method is Afrocentric and Pan African, participating at the national and international levels in the creation of an advanced cadre of individuals whose aim is to bring into existence an African renaissance. Its members are committed to do all that they can to encourage the rise of African consciousness and the creation of the United States of Africa in order to give back to Africa its greatness and sacredness. The motto of the organization is "Unity is our Aim, Victory is our Destiny!" May each one in the world be free from oppression and free to exist on their own terms for if a few try to oppress the majority, and try to suppress it, insanity and violence are bound to be present in the world. Afrocentrists, in the spirit of Maat, seek peace, harmony, justice, order, balance and truth. (<http://dyabukam.com/index.php/en/afrocentricity-en/mission>)

Ama Mazama, Ph.D., (aka Marie-Josée Cérol) is Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Programs of the Department of African American Studies at Temple University. She received her PhD with highest distinction from La Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris III. After graduating from La Sorbonne with Highest Distinction in Linguistics for her doctorate, Professor Ama Mazama taught at the University of Texas, Pennsylvania State University, before arriving at Temple University in 1993. She established a reputation as the principal exponent of the African origin of the Guadeloupian language. In two books, *Langue et Identité en Guadeloupe: Une Perspective Afrocentrique* and *Une Introduction au Créole Guadeloupéen*.

She is the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Black Studies*. Her publications appear in journals in three continents. Well known as an educational consultant for the infusion of African content in American schools Mazama has written several books for teachers in addition to her major scholarly works in Afrocentric philosophy and theory. Two co-edited encyclopedias, the *Encyclopedia of Black Studies* and the *Encyclopedia of African Religion*, earned praise for their pioneering work from the National Council of Black Studies. Her scholarly works critique domination and hegemonic philosophies, reveal the cultural, linguistic, and religious bases of Caribbean culture, especially Vodou, and examine cultural and critical methods of establishing an ethic of justice and equity.

Sunday, 18 September 2016 - 4:30 pm

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