The Association of Departments of English

presents

the Francis Andrew March Award

to

Neal A. Lester

Neal A. Lester is Foundation Professor and Dean's Distinguished Professor of English at Arizona State University, the founding director of Arizona State University’s Project Humanities, and Distinguished Public Scholar of the Arizona Humanities Council. Lester launched his illustrious career from the State University of West Georgia and Vanderbilt University, where he received his doctorate in English. An accomplished scholar, award-winning teacher, and celebrated public speaker, he has brought his learning and insight to a rich range of subjects: children’s literature, personal ads, interracial intimacies in American culture, black masculinities, neo–slave narratives, sexuality, womanist theory, Disney’s first African American princess, and the gender and race politics of hair. As an English department chair, a member of the ADE executive committee, a dean, and an associate vice president, Lester has spoken for the significance and importance of the humanities with extraordinary acumen and energy.

To recognize an innovative scholar, teacher, public intellectual, and institutional administrator whose work has the rare power to reach far beyond his own university, the ADE proudly confers on Neal Lester the ADE’s Francis Andrew March Award.

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