

NEWS

UWI gets new head of Gender Studies

THE University of the West Indies has appointed Jamaica-born Professor Opal Palmer Adisa as the university's new director of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) with effect from August 9, 2017.

She succeeds Professor Verene Shepherd who held the post since 2010.

Holder of a doctorate in philosophy and ethnic studies/literature from the University of California, Berkeley, Adisa is an internationally recognised

writer, educator, cultural activist and diversity trainer who works with institutions on issues of inclusion and fairness, the UWI said in a release.

Returning to the region having studied and worked abroad, Adisa said she was happy to return home to contribute to gender justice and other diversity issues that were essential to the development of the region.

She said, "When we are able to acknowledge, appreciate and provide

space for everyone to contribute to her or his full potential, then we have created a society that works for everyone.

"Our growth and development must be informed by these humanistic values, so we really celebrate our hard-earned independence."

Adisa also holds a bachelor of arts degree in communications and educational media from Hunter College of the City University of New York, a master of arts degree (MA) in English and Cre-

ative Writing and an MA in Theatre and Directing, San Francisco State University, California.

Prior to her IGDS appointment, she was a distinguished professor of the master of fine arts programme in writing and diversity studies, a graduate faculty mentor, faculty advisor for the diversity studies programme and supervising faculty member of the undergraduate writing and literature programme at California College of the Arts since 1993.

She also worked as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, in the African American Studies Department and other universities including, Stanford and the University of the Virgin Islands.

Adisa has au-

thored over twenty scholarly and creative publications that centralise women, explore issues of gender and Caribbean and African diaspora history.

Her poetry, stories, essays and articles have been collected in over 400 journals,

anthologies and other publications.

She has also lectured and read her work throughout the United States, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Germany, England and Prague, and performed in Italy and Bosnia.

