

BREVARD COLLEGE

BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Brevard College Faculty Member Selected for Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

BREVARD, N.C. – Dr. Erasme Uyizeye from Brevard College was awarded a fellowship by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program to travel to Karatina University to work with Dr. George Ndiritu on building research and management capacity to control microplastic pollution in the Nairobi River, Kenya.

This project will carry out reconnaissance research on the fate and transport of microplastics in the Nairobi River, Kenya, and create awareness of the microplastics in Nairobi by delivering a series of training workshops on microplastics pollution, bringing together environmental professionals as well as students.

“It’s an important project because addressing microplastics begins with understanding them and then sharing that information,” said Uyizeye. “After I go next summer, I’ll be very excited to bring back what I learned to share with my students at Brevard College as an environmental citizenship opportunity.”

Uyizeye joined the Brevard College faculty in 2023 as an assistant professor of environmental studies.

The Karatina University project is one of 60 new projects that pair African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work together on curriculum co-development, collaborative research, graduate training and mentoring activities.

Fellowships match host universities with African-born scholars and cover the expenses for project visits of between 14 and 90 days, including transportation, a daily stipend, and the cost of obtaining visas and health insurance.

“I am very thankful for the instrumental support received from Brevard College and Karatina University during the application process of the fellowship,” Uyizeye said. “I will be honored to contribute to knowledge about plastic pollution in rivers of one of the most progressive countries in Africa when it comes to plastic waste management.”

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, now in its tenth year, is designed to strengthen capacity at the host institutions and develop long-term, mutually-beneficial collaborations between universities in Africa and the United States and Canada. It is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU). Nearly 650 African Diaspora Fellowships have now been awarded for scholars to travel to Africa since the program’s inception in 2013.

“We are extremely proud of Dr. Uyizeye’s prestigious award, especially so early in his career at Brevard College,” said Dr. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. “His expertise on microplastic pollution will benefit communities in Kenya and the United States as part of this fellowship program.”

Uyizeye shared that more applicants applied than the number of fellowships awarded and the same organization (IIE) also manages the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

Please direct all questions related to the application process to AfricanDiaspora@iie.org.

Brevard College is committed to an experiential liberal arts education that encourages personal growth and inspires artistic, intellectual, and social action.

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