

PRESS RELEASE

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## **African Presidential Center Appoints Dr. Obasanjo Distinguished Fellow**

*Esteemed Nigerian scholar and daughter of former President joins Boston  
University research center*

(Boston, MA.) — Ambassador Charles R. Stith, Director of the *African Presidential Center*, announced today the appointment of Dr. Iyabo Obasanjo as the *African Presidential Center's* Distinguished Fellow. In commenting on the appointment Stith said, “*Dr. Obasanjo is a first rate scholar who has, and will continue to, make important contributions in our efforts to understand critical economic and political trends in Africa.*”

As a Distinguished Fellow, she will conduct quantitative research consistent with the *African Presidential Center's* mission. This will include identifying research interests, developmental policies, and programs that reflect the focus of APC, as well as her own academic interests.

Dr. Obasanjo graduated from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1988 with a degree in Veterinary Medicine. After her compulsory one year post-graduation national service in Nigeria, during which she worked at the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, she proceeded to University of California at Davis where she obtained a Masters in Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) and then to Cornell University to obtain a PhD in Epidemiology. Her post-doctoral research fellowship was at the Department of Comparative Medicine at the Wake Forest University, School of Medicine using female primates to model the effects of hormonal interventions on menopausal women. After her post-doc, she worked in Clinical Research in the United States managing Phase 1 to IV clinical trials, first as a statistician using her epidemiological training and ending up as a Project Manager, managing complex clinical studies for various diseases for submission to the FDA for approval.

In 2003, she moved back to Nigeria and because of her epidemiological training and work in the US was appointed the Commissioner for Health for her home state. In that position she managed all the public health activities of the state comprising of preventive programs, service delivery, and outreach activities. In 2007, she contested and won a seat to the Nigerian Senate and was the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health for four years. Her term ended June 2011 and in January 2012 she started as an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard University. She is the daughter of former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo.

The *African Presidential Center* at Boston University was established by Ambassador Charles R. Stith to accomplish several goals in the field of African studies. Chief among these are chronicling the current phase toward democratic and free market reform in Africa, encouraging a multidisciplinary approach to teaching about Africa, and establishing a forum for African heads of state to engage scholars and leaders in the private and public sectors in developing the continent's global relationships.