



# CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI

Directorate of Research and Publications

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## PUBLIC LECTURE

**SPEAKER:** Professor Tiece Ruffin

**VENUE:** CU ASSEMBLY HALL

**DATE:** FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

**TIME:** 2:00-3.30 PM



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### *Universal Design for Learning: A tool for today's diverse and inclusive classroom*

Today, many children and youth with disabilities have access to inclusive education, but many do not have an effective learning environment where teachers use best practices in inclusive education. Malawi seeks to improve access and to ensure progress, and inclusive pedagogical methods are essential in the preparation of today's teachers for the diverse and inclusive classroom. The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals emphasize disability in five of its seventeen goals. In particular, **Goal 4, 'inclusive and equitable quality education', has targets that focus on equal access to education, and inclusive and effective learning environments for all.** Unfortunately, challenges and barriers to inclusive education include a rigid curriculum, lack of a variety of teaching methods, and a lack of trained teachers with the expertise to work with students with differences in ability (disability). In this public lecture, Professor Ruffin will present the Universal Design for Learning, a tool to help schools and teachers to create a diverse and inclusive classroom towards inclusive and equitable quality education.

#### **SPEAKER'S BIO**

Dr. Tiece M. Ruffin is Associate Professor of Education at The University of North Carolina Asheville (USA), where she is Coordinator of the K-12 Special Education: General Curriculum Licensure Program. Currently she is a Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar for the 2017-2018 academic year at the University of Education, Winneba (Ghana), in the Department of Special Education. She is currently working on a research project entitled *Pedagogical Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom and Intersectionalities of Culture, Community, and Education Practices*. Prof Ruffin has authored and co-authored several publications, including a book, *Somalis and disability: Cultural context and implications for practice*. She has presented at both national and international conferences.

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