Biddy Mason:
African American Pioneer in Old San Bernardino

Dr. Sandra Kamusikiri will discuss the life of Biddy Mason, an African American slave woman who lived in San Bernardino in the 1850s and who, after gaining her freedom, became the first African American woman to own property in Los Angeles. A nurse and midwife by profession, she helped found the first elementary school for African American children in Los Angeles, assisted those less fortunate than she, and encouraged people to improve their lives. Biddy Mason has been described as the proud symbol of African American achievement and perseverance, and the embodiment of all that is possible in Southern California.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010
Lecture: Noon-1 p.m.
Reception: 1-2p.m.
Location: CSUSB/Pfau Library
PL-4005 (4th floor)

Presenter: Dr. Sandra Kamusikiri

Sandra Kamusikiri is a professor of English and currently dean of Graduate Studies and Associate vice president for assessment and planning at California State University, San Bernardino. She earned her M.A. at the University of Iowa, and both her B.A. and Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside. She is the author of articles and reviews, and co-editor of the Modern Language Association's Writing Assessment: Politics, Policies, and Practice.

If you have ideas for future lectures or would like to know more about upcoming events, please e-mail Iwona Contreras at icontrer@csusb.edu or call (909) 537-3447.

The lecture is free and open to all students, staff, employees, and the community.