

Assata Zerai

Assata Zerai serves as the Associate Provost for Faculty Excellence at the University of Illinois. She provides leadership in the area of faculty diversity, including creating and sharing best practices, fostering the development of new initiatives, and developing metrics and procedures to evaluate programs.

A professor of sociology, Dr. Zerai's research interests include promoting the voices of marginalized groups and improving inclusion. Previously, she served as the Associate Chancellor for Diversity, an associate dean in the Graduate College, and as director of the Center for African Studies. She joined the faculty at Illinois in 2002. Dr. Zerai holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.