

Julian Samora Research Institute: 3rd Statewide Black/Brown Dialogues Summit – Harnessing the Potential

Summit Looks to the Future, Addresses New and Continuing Challenges Facing Latino Communities in the Midwest and Across the U.S.

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For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Julian Samora Research Institute, one of academia’s most respected voices for interdisciplinary research on Latinos in the Midwest and the U.S., hosted the final Statewide Black/Brown Dialogues Summit event – *Harnessing the Potential*, on September 6, 2019.

Under the leadership of the task force committee, the Black/Brown Dialogue summit series was designed to foster dialogues among Michigan’s Latina/o and African American communities, as well as other marginalized communities of color, to envision and build a more just, equitable, and inclusive Michigan. The final Statewide Black/Brown Dialogue Summit featured distinguished speakers and sessions addressing issues critical to communities of color across the state of Michigan, including remarks by Dr. Roberto Dansie, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Sylvia Puente, and others.

Each Summit had its own distinct themes. The first event set in motion a communicative platform for dialogues among communities of color in Michigan. In particular, it provided an overview of common barriers these communities face in regard to social integration and the necessary steps for achieving a common ground. The second Summit focused on identifying a unifying vision to guide the collaborative efforts moving forward, bringing together members of Michigan’s Latina/o, African American, Arab American, Native American, and Asian American communities. The final Summit was based on creating a systematic platform to promote sustainable intergroup collaboration across organizations and societal sectors.

Participants identified challenges that span all communities, such as education, healthcare/mental health, cross-cultural collaboration, economic development, voter suppression, criminal justice reform, racism, human rights, and immigration issues. “The collective voice and influence of ethno-racial minorities in shaping Michigan for the better have been suppressed in our state and our nation,” said Rubén Martinez, JSRI Director. “For a truly inclusive and democratic society to exist in which all population groups do well there must be intergroup collaboration in designing solutions to societal problems.”

Reports from the summits are available at the [JSRI website](#).



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