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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Give Communities Of Color A Voice In Reshaping Education



## White Privilege Workshop Opens Dialogue On Racism

Sep 20, 2016

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Story and photo by Floyd Alvin Galloway

In the early 1900's W.E.B. DuBois stated something that still rings loudly today, a century since the educator and civil rights advocate pinned the words. "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line – the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea".

In the 21st century we see a constant reminder of it on the daily news, on our computers, on our local streets, neighborhoods, schools and workplace.

Arizona State University's Center for the Study of Race and Democracy held their Impact Arizona series, Understanding The Root: Racism, Privilege, Leadership and Action, featuring Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., September 8 – 10, at Mesa Community College and ASU's downtown campus.



Will Collins (center with microphone) discusses race relations with the moderators and audience at the day-long Saturday workshop.

## BIRTH OF A NATION



October 8 at the Arizona Mills mall, Birth of A Nation will be hitting the theaters so here is a chance to see it and to have a discussion about it.

## PHOENIX POLICE ARE HIRING

"All three sessions were well received. The college educator workshop was attended by educators from public and private colleges throughout Maricopa County including many community colleges and University of Arizona," said Deborah Cox, assistant director, CSRD.

"The lecture's audience was very diverse with regards to race, ethnicity, gender, age, students, and people with disabilities. The community workshop really offered a drill down into the topics and issues regarding systemic, institutionalized and structural racism as well as white privilege," noted Cox.

According to Cox the feedback from participants was positive and they understood what CSRD's objectives were. "The correct definitions of systemic, institutionalized and structural racism as well as white privilege and a good understanding of how it is effecting all of our lives and is something that should be dismantled as well as some concrete ways of how to do that."

"I wanted to create an environment where we could have honest and courageous discussions focused on learning and action. Understanding, respecting, connecting," said Dr. Moore, following the workshop.

"These three words were a key part of my strategy for learning. Understand, respecting, and connecting should be an essential part of every classroom and community. Therefore, my goal was to push the groups to understand the basics related to systemic and institutional design embedded in everyday systems and organizations.

In addition he wanted to remind people that everyone need additional skills to make changes and progress.

"This event was designed so all of us can build and strengthen our skills and knowledge. With these enhanced skills, we will be 'Moore' effective leaders, teachers, parents, community members and role models for the young people we are shaping for the 21st century. We all need to do more in order to end racism, white supremacy, privilege and oppression within a society designed by a small group, for a small group," stated Moore, who is also the founder of the White Privilege Conference and Privilege Institute.

During the day-long Saturday workshop, Moore had participants evaluate and rate how far they felt the progress of race relations in the United States has improved, if at all in a society of White privilege.

"As noted racism has been a prominent thread of America since its beginning, can it be erased or dismantled? There's a lot of work to do. However, with a different approach focused primarily on a strong and comprehensive understanding of systemic structural design (white supremacy) we can begin to make progress specifically targeting the widening gaps and disparities related to resources, incarceration, education, economics, power dynamics and Moore," There is immense amount of work to do.

The workshop was valuable and thought provoking. It was interesting to hear the various comments from the audience on interpretations and connotations of "race" and "racism," said Phoenix resident Leah Staten of the Saturday workshop. She's skeptical of the outcome because of people's difficulty to come to terms with their shortcomings on racism. "What I gathered is that there will continue to be hurdles in overcoming just the definition of 'race' and 'racism,' let alone how to eradicate it."

"I especially appreciated the statement that in order to work on dismantling White supremacy, it is necessary to understand what it is and isn't as well as to take a personal evaluation of how one behaves and responds within a structure that has been ingrained for 500 years.

"It's not apathetic or hopeless to realize that it will be a long time before White supremacy is a thing of the past or that substantial progress is made. But what is necessary is to start with self, and to take meaningful steps in appreciating all cultures that make up our world," said Staten.

Edited by AZI Staff



The image is a vertical banner. At the top, it features the Phoenix Police badge, which is circular with a gold border and contains a central emblem with a scale of justice and a sword. The words "POLICE OFFICER" are at the top, "PHOENIX POLICE" is at the bottom, and "PRIDE" is on a small plaque at the very bottom. Below the badge, the text "Pride starts with the badge" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, it says "To earn your badge with the Phoenix Police, contact us:" followed by the website "Phoenix.gov/police". At the bottom of this section are icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The lower half of the banner shows a blurred background of a job advertisement with the heading "Heroes wanted" and a photo of two police officers, a woman and a man, in uniform. Below the photo, the text "Apply now" is visible.

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