

Beyond Description

**Addressing Health Disparities
through Campus – Community
Partnerships**

**March 28–29
2006**

**Palmer Commons
University of Michigan**

Sponsored by the National Center for Institutional Diversity

welcome

Friends and Colleagues,

The National Center for Institutional Diversity welcomes you to this colloquium on health disparities and their implications for campus-community partnerships. We have planned the conference to go “beyond description” of the gaps that divide our society and to focus on how colleges, universities and their partners can work together to address the underlying causes that shape these challenges.

This discussion represents the Center’s goal of bringing new voices and new lines of inquiry into the discourse on diversity. We are proud to be the sponsor of an extraordinary gathering of people from around the country who, in partnerships, are working together to create caring, effective, and just treatment for three significant conditions of disease: malaria, hunger/obesity, and asthma. These are three of the many health

areas in which disparities exist because of poverty and racism, and also differences in access to care, transportation and community planning. These examples provide a lens through which we can examine the importance of research and action partnerships in at least chipping away at the fundamental causes of disparities internationally, nationally, and in our local communities.

We especially welcome our partners from communities — both locally and across the country — who have come to be with us. We are honored that they will be here to share their wisdom with us, and to provide us with ideas for improving the work of the University of Michigan in society.

Collegially yours,

Patricia Gurin
Acting Director

National Center for Institutional Diversity Winter Colloquium

March 28-29, 2006

This colloquium sponsored by The National Center for Institutional Diversity, focuses on health disparities within our society, their causes, their implications, and what can be done to address them at a community, state, and national/international level. We will examine the implications of these issues for a National Center for Institutional Diversity, for research and teaching across the University of Michigan, for the people who live and work within our community, and for preparing future professionals who will successfully address these problems.

We begin with a framing presentation on the underlying causes of health disparities in our society and around the world. Then we turn to presentations by panels of distinguished speakers who will help us delve more deeply into local, state, and national/international examples of health disparities that are being addressed through creative university community collaborations. We will conclude with an exploration of ways to initiate and sustain change effectively, specifically examining implications at the individual, institutional, community, and global scale.

There have been many conferences focusing on health disparities. We

approach the topic through a different lens by:

- Presenting evidence of the health disparities that divide our society along economic, social, culture, ethnic, geographic and gender lines is more than adequate to convince us of a relationship between diversity and health.
- Focusing concretely and honestly on how race and poverty affect the reality of health disparities.
- Gathering examples of efforts underway to address health disparities within communities, including our own, and look into how these efforts are led, sustained and evaluated. We will examine specific examples of campus-community partnerships.
- Looking into relationships between those who provide health care and how it is received, especially as it sheds light on the importance of diversity in the health professions and on implications for health care delivery.
- Discussing how a better understanding of disparities could inform how we teach our students, not only for careers in health and public service, but also across the disciplines and professions.

schedule

Day One: Facing Statistics Tuesday, March 28

8:00–9:00 Check-in & Continental Breakfast
An interactive exercise through which participants are introduced to one another and the key concepts that will facilitate an interdisciplinary discussion of health disparities. The activity will involve electronic balloting technology and moderated group discussion. It will allow for individuals to join the group as they arrive (staggered start) and make sure that everyone is oriented and ready to begin the first session promptly at 9:00 AM.

9:00–9:30 Welcome & Introduction
Welcome and introductory remarks will be given on behalf of the University and the National Center for Institutional Diversity.

SPEAKERS:
Lester Monts and Patricia Gurin,
University of Michigan

A framework for the colloquium will be provided by the co-chairs in which the logic which shaped the agenda will be made explicit for participants and “ground rules” set for involvement in the discussion.

SPEAKERS:
David Gordon and John Burkhardt,
University of Michigan

**9:30–10:15 Session One
Framing Presentation**

SPEAKERS:
Gloria Edwards,
University of Michigan (moderator)
David Williams,
University of Michigan

10:15–10:30 Break

**10:30–12:00 Session Two
International Disparities:
Focus on Efforts to Address
Malaria**

Presentations outline malaria as a biologic, social, political and economic challenge and discuss the ways universities are working to address the challenges.

SPEAKERS:
James Jackson,
University of Michigan (moderator)
Mark Wilson,
University of Michigan
Bob Desowitz,
University of North Carolina
Don Mathanga,
University of Malawi
Mary Galinski,
Emory University

12:00–1:00 Lunch
“Beyond Borders”— a brief presentation and interactive exchange between Ann Arbor high school students and students in Kenya through which they collaborate to “bring home” the significance of malaria as an international health threat and demonstrate cooperation in addressing the challenges of prevention and treatment.

CONVENER:
Josh Gottlieb,
Malaria Foundation International

**1:00–2:30 Session Three
State Disparities: Focus on
Efforts to Improve Nutrition
(Obesity / Hunger)**
Presentations outline issues of nutrition, obesity and hunger as they relate to biologic, social, political and economic challenges and discuss ways in which universities are working to address the challenges

SPEAKERS:
George Taylor,
University of Michigan (moderator)
Kim Eagle,
University of Michigan
Mary Ellen Howard,
Cabrini Clinic
Kimberly Dawn Wisdom,
Surgeon General State of Michigan
Linda Jo Doctor,
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

2:30–3:30 Breakout Groups

3:30–4:00 Snack and Optional Task

**4:00–5:30 Session Four
Local Disparities: Focus on
Efforts to Address Asthma**
Presentations outline the issue of asthma as a biologic, social, political and economic challenge and discuss ways in which universities are working to address the challenges.

SPEAKERS:
Carol Goss,
Skillman Foundation (moderator)
Angie Reyes,
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
Edith Parker,
University of Michigan
Tom Robins,
University of Michigan
Dee Brown,
Corner Health Center
Lynn Klima,
St. Joseph Mercy Health System

**5:30–6:00 Wrap-up & Summary of Day 1 /
Overview of Day 2**

FACILITATORS:
Marsha Lillie-Blanton,
Kaiser Family Foundation
Toni Villarruel,
University of Michigan

**6:30–9:00 Evening Event:
Reception at University
of Michigan Museum of Art**

Hosted by University of Michigan
President Mary Sue Coleman

