



# Mission, Goals, & Initiatives

for

## IMORPC 1 Voice Speaker Series

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# Opening Remarks

# About the Kirwan Institute

- Established in May 2003
- Primary Goal
  - Educating the public
  - Building capacity of allied social justice organizations
  - Investing in efforts that support equity and inclusion
  - Accomplished primarily through research and public policy, secondarily through engagement and communication
- Mission: *To create a just and inclusive society where all people and communities have opportunity to succeed.*
- Focus is on race and ethnicity because this area has been the most challenging in establishing equity for all.





# Current Initiatives

- ▶ Monograph about the state of race in the State of Ohio
  - ▶ Compilation of information across various sources and spheres of functions based on race/ethnicity in Ohio
    - ▶ Economics, Education, Health, Housing/neighborhoods, Legal, Political, Transportation, social & psychological well-being
- ▶ Prior papers were produced by Kirwan on the state of Black Ohioans: 2008 & 2010
- ▶ Four Primary Research Initiatives:
  - ▶ Educational equity and disparities
  - ▶ Health equity and disparities—a number of partnerships with the Ohio Health Department
  - ▶ Neighborhood and wealth inequality
  - ▶ Public Policy: including civic engagement, diversity training, & big data bias

# Combating Racism

- ▶ Life-long process
  - ▶ Increasing heterogeneity of society
  - ▶ US – the grand experiment
- ▶ Informative research—guided by what is inequitable & what might work to reduce such inequity
- ▶ Partnership with public entities: national, state, and local agencies
  - ▶ no one entity can do this work alone



# Kirwan and MORPC

- Potential to partner on a number of initiatives based on MORPC's 5 goals for 21-22
- Regionalism: We believe it is important to be engaged with the community that we live and work in.
- Transportation: Equity in transportation is important across races and regions—rural to urban
- Sustainability: Growing concern
  - We have 2 projects in this area right now:
    - Micro farming—producing partnerships between urban and rural areas to close the racial and economic divide
    - Sustainability and Race







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# Kirwan and MORPC

- Potential to partner on a number of initiatives based on MORPC's 5 goals for 21-22
- Data & Digital Infrastructure: Maintaining equity across communities is vital.
  - Pandemic has laid bare various areas of inequities.
- Racial & Social Justice: This area is at the heart of Kirwan's work and it permeates the other 4 goals of MORPC



Thank you for the invitation to speak.

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