Mission, Goals, & Initiatives for IMORPC 1Voice Speaker Series

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Interim Executive Director
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
Combatting 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
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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