Let’s Talk About R.A.C.E.

Real Authentic Conversations and Engagement

Click to RSVP

Appreciated for planning, but not required

- Be part of a new campus dialogue with faculty, staff, and students.
- Watch and discuss a powerful three-part PBS documentary, *Race: The Power of Illusion*.
- Partner with a student, faculty, or staff member to make a campus contribution.

The Difference Between Us
Thurs., Nov. 10, 2016; 3:30-5:30pm
Heritage Ballroom

The Story We Tell
Tues., Nov. 15, 2016; 3:30-5:30pm
Heritage Ballroom

The House We Live In & Next Steps
Tues., Jan. 31, 2017; 6:30-8:30pm
Heritage Ballroom

-Refreshments will be provided-

Indiana State University

**Sponsors:**
Office of the President
Student Government Association
Divisions of Academic Affairs & Student Affairs
Let’s Talk About R.A.C.E. Informational Guide

What is this? *Let’s Talk About Race* is designed to enable our campus community to engage one of the defining topics of our time, and in a way that is both respectful and thought provoking. It first utilizes the vehicle of the acclaimed PBS documentary, *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, that examines why and how dividing people into categories has become so deeply rooted in the human psyche and widely accepted. We will begin with episode one that focuses on the contemporary science - including genetics - that challenges common sense assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to their physical traits. In episode two, we will explore race as a concept in North America, the 19th century science that legitimated it, and how it came to be held so fiercely in the western imagination. In episode three, we will examine how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics and culture and the ways in which social institutions channel resources, power, status, and wealth, often beyond their awareness. From there, the project moves beyond knowledge to unique application via the forming of faculty/staff and student pairs to engage together on small partnered projects that help our campus to become more inclusive and equitable.

Why are we doing it? Indiana State University is among the most racially diverse campuses in the state of Indiana. Understanding how the themes noted above manifest on our campus, and impact learning and social belonging, is essential to ensuring the best possible educational experience for all.

What can I expect by participating? Each theme or film episode is one hour in length. We will watch an episode together and then discuss it during the second hour. We will also establish conversation norms that enable the engagement of this sometimes difficult topic so attendees feel safe to share while also maintaining the right to be silent.

What is the time commitment and what if I can’t make one or more? There are three sessions of two hours each. Although attendance at all three sessions is desired, it is not required. Viewing the episodes on-line is also possible (they are free and on Youtube at these links: Episode 1; Episode 2; Episode 3), and the documentary Discussion Guide is a valuable tool for reflection on the content presented. In addition, we will invite participants to engage in a post-series experience where we will pair a student with either a faculty or staff member to vision something they together can do to make a campus contribution (see below). This is not time consuming, perhaps a few hours over a few month period.

What happens after we watch and discuss the third and final episode? We will put together the student-faculty/staff pairs from among those that wish to participate, ideally in mixed race combinations, and invite the pairs to meet to discuss something they could do to make a campus contribution. These contributions or projects will be incorporated into a Campus Convocation in late February/early March (more information to come) that will involve a mix of poster session content, brief presentation opportunity of sample projects, and group discussion. One example of a project could be a recorded interview of each other about their earliest knowledge of/experience with race or a moment in their life when they felt an assumption was being made about a group to which they belonged. Another example could be taking photographs for a day of people and activities with whom they interact and come together to discuss them or examining some newspaper stories and images together and discuss what they see. A third example could be doing a small research project that educates on a particular topic linked to the theme(s) of the documentary. These are just examples; the pairs are free to vision their own ideas. Microgrants will also be available should a small amount of funds be needed (typically less than $50).