



## Introduction

The time has come to make a concerted effort to have a national dialogue about the state of race relations in America and across the globe. We see reminders, almost on a daily basis, all around us that a discussion is needed among many people on many fronts.

What better place for such a sustained conversation to occur than on the campuses of colleges and universities across the nation. Historically, many students and their professors have been on the forefront of social change and the associated enabling policies and legislation that impacted the quality of life for many in the United States and other parts of the world.

We know that currently there are colleges and universities addressing this issue in different ways. More than ever, we need to *come together* to mobilize a national dialogue about the many issues around race and how they impact the lives of many Americans, everyday, all across the country. As you know, it is a subject that continues to be ignored or merely discussed intermittently when an incident demands it rather than in mainstream forums on a sustained basis.

## Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this historic undertaking is to foster a sustained conversation about race relations in America to achieve the following objectives:

- Explore the state of race relations—understanding and inclusiveness—on college campuses;
- Begin to discuss and assess the challenges we face as a nation;
- Stimulate active engagement in the development of constructive strategies to increase understanding and improvement; and
- Achieve the level of commitment to take actions on where we need to go.

Such a broad and sustained conversation is paramount if we are to achieve real improvements and advancement in the conditions of all humanity.

## How the On-Campus and National Dialogues Will Work

1. USARiseUp.com will work with participating schools to encourage participation among professors and students at their college/university.
2. Professors are asked to recruit their students to participate in the online dialogue
3. Professors are asked to provide position/research papers, articles, and video post of lectures that can be used as we cover various subjects/issues during the 2010-2011 academic year. (We are currently issuing a call for questions, position statements, papers, articles, and video lectures that we will use to support the subjects/issues that will be covered in the dialogue process.) They will focus on many areas and issues, including but not limited to:
  - Education—achievement gap/disparities, opportunities, trends across racial/ethnic groups
  - Sociology—stereotypes and social norms, intergenerational issues regarding perceptions about race and ethnicity
  - Work Place—how race plays in job placement, career growth, wealth accumulation, etc.
  - Community—physical lines of demarcation, housing, home ownership.
  - Family values—the ever-changing roles, and traditions, as well as the short-term/long-term impact
  - Politics—the potential influence of the Changing Face of America; by 2050, America will be a nation of minorities. What are the implications?
  - Any other area that will shed enlightenment, stimulate conversation, and increase understanding
4. Participating students will be required to post a comment of a specified length on the subject/issue of the day/week; and make a response to a posted comment from another student not only at their college/university but from other schools as well. (Participating professor could offer extra credit to students as an incentive to participate in the online dialogue. For example: If you provide points for a test or research paper, you could offer extra credit points for students who participate in the dialogue on a weekly basis.) We will be able to provide professors with access and participation reports for their students.
5. Each participating college or university will be asked to provide their college logo and link to their applicable departmental work to be posted on USARiseUp.com to make it convenient for their students to access their school's work as they participate in the broader dialogue.
6. To track individual student participation at the college/university level, we will be issuing unique codes for convenient access to all relevant material and comment/response fields.

7. We are convening an Advisory Panel of professors and students to provide guidance, input and assessment of the various the subject areas, progress and impact of the dialogue during the academic year.

### Participating Colleges and Universities

Some of the colleges/universities that have signed on to date include:

University of California, Berkeley  
Syracuse University  
Michigan State  
St. Bonaventure University  
Texas A & M University  
University of North Carolina—Greensboro  
University of North Carolina—Pembroke  
Howard University  
California State University, Fullerton  
San Jose State University  
California State University, Fresno  
University of San Francisco  
California State University, San Marcos  
Fort Hayes State University  
Jackson State University  
Park University  
University of Missouri  
Washburn University  
Millikin University  
University of the District of Columbia  
Barry University  
**St. Mary's University**  
North Carolina Wesleyan College  
Fisk University

Additional colleges are being added weekly.

If you need additional information, please contact me at: [jellis@usariseup.com](mailto:jellis@usariseup.com) or call me at (816) 931-2200. Thank you

Janice S. Ellis, Ph.D., M.A.  
President and Publisher  
USARiseUp.com