

THE CROSSING BRIDGES SUMMIT 2021-2022

Examining Police Reform:

Conversations about the 'Pittsburgh
Community Taskforce for Police Reform' and
its implications for the Mon Valley



PennState
Greater Allegheny

About the Crossing Bridges Summit

In 2017, Penn State Greater Allegheny launched The Crossing Bridges Summit, a signature program designed to bridge racial divides in the Mon Valley. Since its inception, the Summit has engaged hundreds of people and introduced them to national experts on race and racism including Michael Eric Dyson, Angela Davis, and Cornel West. Local voices including Vanessa German, Jasiri X, and Jessica Brooks have inspired participants to consider how awareness can lead to action and change.

Each Crossing Bridges Summit Speaker has encouraged and challenged participants. Dyson reminded us to be courageous in our work. Davis reminded us to work for a community in which everyone is valued. And in fall 2019, West asked a question that would become central to our experiences in 2020..."Are you staying strong?"

It takes courage to face the realities of racism, to hear the pain of our colleagues and neighbors, and to discuss the practices, policies, and conditions that cause inequity. It takes strength to invite and engage others to work for change in our communities. This is why the summit exists. Join us this year as we explore Police Reform.

Speaker Series - Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 14, 2021 | Broadcast live on WPSU

Voices of Activists and Scholars

Panelists will discuss their research and their community action efforts.

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 | Broadcast live on WPSU

Voices of Citizens and Victims

Panelists will share their personal experiences with policing and the reforms they hope to see.

Thursday, February 3, 2022 | Broadcast live on WPSU

Voices from the Judicial System and Police

Panelists representing defenders, prosecutors, and judges, will join with public safety experts to discuss justice efforts.

Thursday, April 7, 2022 | In person at Penn State Greater Allegheny

The Year in Review: What We Learned and Where We Go From Here

An in-person discussion featuring one speaker from each of our previous panels.

Summit Talks

Following each event, we will hold Summit Talks to consider our panelists' major points and identify action items the campus will pursue as it works to be an agent for positive change.

Crossing Bridges Pillars

The Crossing Bridges Summit is comprised of five key areas. These areas, or pillars, frame our work and engage the campus and broader community in conversations and programming that will lead to meaningful change in our region.

Speaker Series:

The Speaker Series engages local and national experts to offer different perspectives on questions of race and racism in the United States and the Mon Valley.

Summit Talks:

Summit Talks occur after each speaker series event. Faculty, staff, students, and community members join discussion leaders to consider speakers' major points. Participants identify actionable items Greater Allegheny will pursue as it works to be an agent for positive change.

Unity Talks:

These student-led campus-based discussions focus on topics that emerge from student dialogue about race and racism. Unity Talks engage students, faculty, and staff in honest dialogue about issues that concern students.

Visiting Scholar:

The Visiting Scholar Series brings intellectuals, artists, activists and others to campus for a yearlong engagement to include teaching, community outreach, research, and/or creative performance. Dr. Tom Poole, a civil rights scholar with extensive work in educational equity is the current Visiting Scholar.

Task Force on Racial Equity and Justice:

Our Task Force on Racial Equity and Justice works to create a community in which individuals can thrive and be successful. The Task Force is responsible for examining curriculum and programming and making recommendations to ensure that all members of the campus community develop an understanding of racial justice, racism, and its impact on society. The Task Force also makes recommendations on professional development offerings for employees and works to ensure that students have equitable access to an education at Penn State Greater Allegheny.



greaterallegheny.psu.edu/cbsummit

412-675-9180 or 412-675-9047 | marketing-psuga@psu.edu

Greater Allegheny at a Glance

437

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

50%

FIRST GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

43%

DIVERSE
POPULATION

57%

MALE
STUDENTS

43%

FEMALE
STUDENTS