

THE CROSSING BRIDGES SUMMIT

APRIL 15, 2021

3:00 p.m.

watch.psu.edu/crossingbridges

**Political and Policy Influences
on Black Women's Health**



PennState
Greater Allegheny

Message from Jacqueline Edmondson Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

Today we conclude the fourth year of the Crossing Bridges Summit. The purpose has always been for our campus to be a catalyst for change as we work to bridge racial divides in the Mon Valley.

Our events this year were particularly timely as we considered questions about Black women's health that were raised in the Pittsburgh Inequality report issued by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh in 2019. There's a heightened awareness in our communities about racism and inequity that provides an important context and urgency to our work.

We look forward to engaging our campus and community partners in courageous conversations as we determine actions that will bring positive changes in the region.



Crossing Bridges Pillars

Speaker Series: The Speaker Series brings prominent figures to campus, 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. Faculty, staff, students and community members join discussion leaders to consider each speaker's 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 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.

Event Agenda

Penn State Greater Allegheny Introduction

Welcome from Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson
Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

Moderator Introduction
Dr. Johnathan White

Panel Discussion

Rep. Morgan B. Cephas, Rikell S. Ford, Rochelle L. Jackson and
Dr. Stella Onuoha-Obilor, DrPH, MD, MPH, CPHQ

Live Question & Answer Session

Submit your answers via watch.psu.edu/crossingbridges

Closing

Featuring



Rep. Morgan B. Cephas - Panelist

State Representative, 192nd District; Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Representative Cephas (See-Fuhs) was elected to her first term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in November 2016. Since that time, she has introduced laws to reverse the trend of maternal mortality, increase financial relief for childcare and to bring dignity to incarcerated women. Her priorities in the General Assembly include expanding access to healthcare to improve health outcomes, increasing education opportunities and career pipelines for youth and young adults, creating jobs through business incentives, and ensuring women and girls are a priority. Cephas is a lifelong public servant, and native of West Philadelphia.



Rikell S. Ford - Panelist

Licensed Social Worker, Peer Coach Specialist, Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Rikell S. Ford is a Licensed Social Worker, employed by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Children, Youth and Families as a Peer Coach Specialist where she coaches staff in the agency's practice model to empower families and keep fidelity to the work of child welfare in Allegheny County. She is active in special workgroups with the department that focus on community and client engagement as it relates to disproportionality and race. Ford is the proud founder of Kindred C.U.L.T.U.R.E. a non-profit focused on serving communities in the Mon Valley area. Ford aims to show unity and equity throughout her life by empowering others, educating professionals and community members in mental health and racial issues, and using her voice to advocate for marginalized populations.



Rochelle L. Jackson - Panelist

Director and Founder; Black Women's Policy Agenda

Rochelle L. Jackson serves as Founder and Director of the Black Women's Policy Agenda, an initiative to address the complex challenges black women and girls across all identities face in the Greater Pittsburgh region. Jackson has served for many years as an advocate for equity and economic justice, inspired by her own personal journey as a single mom and through previously held roles as the Femisphere Project Director at the Women and Girls Foundation and as a Public Policy Advocate at Just Harvest for seventeen years. She is an appointed member of the PA State Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Advisory Committee and the Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee.



Dr. Stella Onuoha-Obilor, DrPH, MD, MPH, CPHQ - Panelist

Vice President of Clinical Quality, Highmark Health

Dr. Stella Obilor (Oh-Bee-Lor) serves as the Vice President of Clinical Quality for Highmark Health. Her MD is in medicine and surgery, and she also holds a masters and doctorate in Public Health. She is a certified professional in Healthcare Quality and a Certified Case Manager.

Dr. Obilor is a transformational, motivational, servant leader who is passionate about quality health care. She is a loving wife and proud mother of 4; ages 14, 13, 11, and 8. She says, "Improving the numbers fuels my passion because behind every data point in Health Care is a human story!"

Moderator



Dr. Johnathan White

Assistant Teaching Professor of History, Penn State Greater Allegheny

Johnathan White was born in Norfolk, VA. He earned his MA and doctorate in History from the University of Pittsburgh. His dissertation examines the plight of black jazz musicians in Pittsburgh before and after integration. In particular, he examines oral testimonies to understand how collective memory interprets and rectifies the past. Dr. White has been employed at Penn State Greater Allegheny since 2007. He has taught a variety of courses in history, African-American studies, black arts, and leadership development. He co-founded the Study of Hip-Hop Conference and the Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program. Dr. White is engaged in community affairs as a board member of the Langston Hughes Poetry Society. Furthermore, he served as director of the Full Armor Institute, which focuses on mentoring young black men, at Mt. Olive Baptist church. He has created and conducted several black history workshops along with seminars on educating black men and living a vibrant lifestyle that synthesizes faith and the pursuit of social justice.

After the Speaker Series

Summit Talks

Panel Discussion

Today, Thursday, April 15, 2021

4:35 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Register Now: ga.psu.edu/register-summit-talks

Thank You

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