The Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations
Preparing WMU Students to Live and Work in Our Increasingly Diverse Society through Teaching, Applied Research and Community Service

Mission
As part of Academic Affairs, our mission is to engage in teaching, research and service to promote:

- Understanding of race and ethnic relations
- Appreciation of diverse peoples and cultures of the U.S. and other nations
- More equitable and inclusive communities and institutions

Expert Guest Speakers

- James Forman, Jr., Yale University – From Fear and Vengeance to Mercy and Forgiveness: Reforming the Criminal Justice System (2015)
- Pedro Noguera, New York University – Education and Diversity (2012)

Western Michigan University

Faculty

- Tim Ready, Director
- Don Cooney, Associate Director
- Doug Davidson, Associate Director
- Ashlyn Kuersten, Associate Director
- Lewis Walker, Emeritus

Staff

- Mimi Abdul, Office Manager, Academic Advisor
- Shaghil Husain, Research Associate

Graduate Assistants

Gus Calbert & Keiondra Grace

1104 Welborn Hall
(269) 387-2141
www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute

Some of Our Accomplishments

- Oscar-winning filmmaker Michael Moore came to Miller Auditorium to kick off the 2016-17 series “Coming Together or Pulling Apart? Race, Class and the Common Good.” He made a call to bridge our differences and work together for a better future for all.

Accomplishments

- Race, Class and the Criminal Justice System Community Forums: Police-Community Relations; Juvenile Justice System; Returning Ex-Offenders; Re-imagining Kalamazoo with Justice for All (2015)

- Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo The Institute has played a key role in the planning, development and implementation of the city’s initiative to promote equal opportunity and social mobility (2014 – Present)


- Minor in Race and Ethnic Relations The Walker Institute developed and administers the minor (2011 - Present)

- Office for Service Learning The Institute championed the development of service learning at WMU and was the first home of the Office for Service Learning (2010 – 2012)
WIRE programs help youth envision themselves in college and in desirable careers—and provide culturally sensitive guidance and instruction to help them get there. All programs are free of charge.

For More Information or to Enroll Your Child in a WIRE Program
Walker Institute
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1104 Welborn Hall
Office: (269) 387-2141
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WIRE Programs, 2016-2017*

Sept.- May * America Counts Math Program, at Arcadia Elementary School
Fall 2016 * WIRE Homework Helpers, with Southwest Michigan Rocket Football and Cheerleading Association
Spring ’17 * WIRE Sports-based Youth Development Program at WMU Student Recreation Center
July, 2017 * 4th Annual WIRE Math and Science Camp at WMU Walker Institute

* Additional programs may be offered, depending interest and availability of resources

Other WIRE Programs Occasionally Offered since 2008

• Together Kalamazoo: An Exploration of Youth Creativity, Diversity & Community through the Arts-- in collaboration with BIGthink (spring, 2014)
• WIRE Golf (Sm, 2013)
• Merze-Tate Travel Writers Club— a collaboration with Community Voices (2013-2014)
• WIRE Summer Book Club (Sm, 2012 and 2013)
• Edison Cooks Nutrition and Food Preparation Program (2011)
• Razas United Youth Program, 2008 to 2011, with Hispanic American Council and Boys and Girls Club
• Kalamazoo Youth Media Initiative – a collaboration with the WMU School of Communication and the Public Media Network (2008-2009)

Through WIRE, the Walker Institute fulfills an important part of its mission: to help build more equitable and inclusive communities through community service. Since 2008, more than 1,000 youth between 7 and 13 years-old have participated in one or more WIRE Youth Development Programs from the Walker Institute.