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

One Community
ONE COMMUNITY is the foundational theme that guides the Walker Institute in its mission.

ONE COMMUNITY draws on the American ideal of equal opportunity for all, and that our prosperity and quality of life depend on this. Unfortunately, ongoing racial disparities compounded by high poverty rates are slowing progress toward the achievement of this ideal.

ONE COMMUNITY is intended to function simultaneously as: A community indicators system highlighting indicators of well-being by race, ethnicity and class. A program of community-engaged research and service. A change strategy that engages persons of all backgrounds in a common conversation about overcoming differences in understandings and values across racial, geographic and class lines.

Faculty
- Tim Ready, Director
- Don Cooney, Associate Director
- Luchara Wallace, Associate Director
- Lewis Walker, Emeritus

Staff
- Mimi Abdul, Admin. Asst. Sr.
- Shaghil Husain, Research Associate

Doctoral Graduate Assistants
- Gus Calbert - Education
- Keiondra Grace - Sociology

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)
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.

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.

### WIRE Programs

**Fall**  
*WIRE Homework Helpers, with Southwest Michigan Rocket Football and Cheerleading Association*

**Spring**  
*WIRE Sports-based Youth Development Program at WMU Student Recreation Center*

**Summer II**  
*Math and Science Camp at WMU*

* Additional programs may be offered, depending upon 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)

### For More Information or to Enroll Your Child in a WIRE Program

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