

Dialogue On Race



Ten Years of Selected Activities

Year	Activity (Issue Group in Parentheses)
2009-2010	·The Community Group began gathering people to form a work group to develop and fund a dialogue on race.
2010-2012	·Steering Committee for Dialogue on Race was formed: Penny Franklin, chair; Dave Britt, Ben Dixon, Jim Dubinsky, Andy Morikawa, Ray Plaza, Wornie Reed, and Latanya Walker.
Oct 2011- April 2012	·African American community members in Montgomery County, VA, met four times in focus-group type sessions to develop key racial issues to be addressed.
2013	·Began the Dialogue on Race initiative: Organized into Issue Groups. ·The cast of <i>Behind a Stranger's Face</i> performed selected scenes from the play at Summer Summit. (Jim Crow/White Privilege)
2014	·Local government agencies agreed to Ban the Box (Employment/Income Gap).
2015	·Monica McIntyre, a community activist, poet, songwriter, and cellist from New Orleans, and her sister, Marcia, came and performed at the Third Annual Dialogue on Race Summit. ·Local police departments volunteered to collect data on all traffic stops to assist in monitoring for racial profiling. (Law Enforcement) ·The Summer Summit featured facilitated story circles on supporting the work of the Dialogue on Race. (Jim Crow/White Privilege)
2016	·DOR co-sponsored a high school diversity event at Virginia Tech with the VT chapter of the NAACP. (Education) ·Police chiefs began funding police academy training for eligible applicants for police departments in Montgomery County. (Law Enforcement) ·Started <i>Books to Badges</i> two-year college tuition program (Chief Wilson led the fund-raising effort for the program). (Law Enforcement) ·Sarah Halvorson-Fried, a member of the Employment/Income Gap Issue Group, completed her master's thesis research on approaches to diversity by executives of agencies and corporations in New River Valley, for use by the Issue Group.
2017	·In collaboration with DOR, MCPS made a student video which emphasized the importance of hiring minority teachers. Student member Seth Godbey led the initiative. The video became a powerful recruitment tool. (Education) · DOR co-sponsored a high school diversity event at Virginia Tech with the VT chapter of NAACP. (Education) ·The Summer Summit featured facilitated groups on racism in K-12 education with school administrators and community members. (Education and Jim Crow/White Privilege)
2018	·VT Class conducted a survey of organizations in Montgomery County on the demographic representation on boards. (Limited Presence) ·DOR Presented on its work to Kiwanis of Montgomery County-Blacksburg.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·DOR Steering Committee gave a presentation to the Lifelong Learning Institute titled <i>Disrupting Pipelines of Inequality – Dialogue on Race</i>. ·County Supervisors agreed to fund the ACCE program, providing full tuition for all eligible Montgomery County high school graduates. (Law Enforcement) ·DOR gave a presentation on diversity in hiring to Montgomery County administrators. (Employment/Income Gap) ·Several DOR Steering Committee members and Education Issue Group members began participating in the MCPS 2021-26 Five-Year Strategic Plan process.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Began Coffee with Cops event at annual Winter Summit. (Law Enforcement) ·Winter Summit featured a panel with Penny Franklin and Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke (Limited Presence). ·Began <i>Run for ACCE 5K and Fun Run</i> fundraiser to help fund the ACCE program for MCPS graduates to attend New River Community College tuition free. Each student performs 80 annual community service hours. (Education) ·DOR was awarded the Virginia Education Association’s Annual Fitz Turner Award which honors outstanding leadership and contributions to enhance respect for human and civil rights in VA. ·An event took place to promote understanding of code of student conduct policies. (Education) ·DOR gave a presentation to the Blacksburg Morning Rotary Club.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·At Winter Summit: DOR conducted the Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation. ·<i>Law Enforcement Press Conference</i> – response to the killing of George Floyd. The Sheriff, Police chiefs, and local elected officials participated. (Law Enforcement) ·Because of the pandemic, DOR issue groups began to meet by Zoom. ·Fundraising event for ACCE with VT Athletic Department raised \$75,000. ·DOR had a Zoom meeting with Senator Tim Kaine on legislative issues. ·<i>Nothing But a Man</i> film presentation by DOR at The Lyric Theatre. Panel discussion followed, with Dr. Wornie Reed and Dr. Onwubiko Agozino. ·The Summer Summit was a webinar, <i>Understanding Racial Trauma</i>, which was followed later by the education-focused webinar, <i>The Impact of Racial Trauma on our Black Students</i>. Students, parents, and school staff were featured.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Summer Summit on <i>Student Voices: Reflecting on Race and Racism in our Schools</i> provided an opportunity to discuss the equity work in MCPS and featured Ryan Wade, the Blacksburg Middle School Teacher and Equity Lead, interviewing students about their school experiences. ·Made a presentation about DOR to a Radford University Intercultural Communication Class.
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Presented webinar: <i>A Year of Masks--The COVID Pandemic, Race, Racism, Vaccination & Vaccines, What to Know and Do</i> with physician panelists Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III and Dr. Pete Guerra. ·Began <i>High School Teen Police Academy</i> as a service-learning class for MCPS high school students. (Law Enforcement) ·Following the summer summit on Education, a response to the Governor’s education plan was developed and presented at an event at the Historic Hill School: <i>A Community briefing on the Governor’s Education Report - Standing Up and Speaking Up for Public Education</i>.