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Noted Higher Education Diversity expert to Moderate Session on Recent Student Protests and their Impact on U.S. Universities

Dr. Byron White of Cleveland State University will be presenting his insights on the importance of diversity and inclusion to more than 40 universities convening in Austin

(AUSTIN, TX) - In the wake of countless students' cries for more inclusion and representation on campus, universities throughout the country are re-evaluating their policies and programs aimed at embracing an ever-increasingly diverse student body. Dr. Byron White, the Vice President of Community Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer at Cleveland State University, will be participating in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) meeting, being held in Austin, February 4 to 6, 2016.

As a respected authority on issues of inclusion and diversity at U.S. universities, Dr. White will be facilitating a discussion on strategies for student success with a group of approximately 40 institutions. Additionally, he will be presenting a panel on "Embracing Campus and Community Racial Unrest" which will examine how activism surrounding Ferguson, Missouri and the Black Lives Matter Movement have served as a catalyst for campus-wide changes among students and administrators.

"Although many of the recent student protests have been viewed as disruptions to the campus and community, senior leaders are starting to embrace them as an opportunity to engage the student body and create a more inclusive enterprise," says Dr. White.

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“The question is - How do we leverage this moment, and challenge institutions to be more equitable and inclusive?”

For approximately six months, protests and demonstrations have occurred throughout college campuses nationwide, with students demanding changes from the administration to the curriculum to improve the experience and environment for students of color on predominantly white campuses.

Dr. White’s expertise on issues of diversity and inclusion make him the ideal choice for discussing the recent events at U.S. universities and how they need to grow and adapt to the needs of a rapidly changing student body demographic. Since most projections point to an ever-increasing number of “non-traditional” students enrolling into the system, it is imperative that universities begin crafting programs, curriculum and social service options to better serve the needs of their shifting population.

“It is imperative that universities be deliberate about ensuring their programs, their curriculum and their student support options serve the needs of their shifting population,” says Dr. White. “There is an urgency to address these issues and to do so in a more systematic way.”

Byron White, Ed.D., has served as the Vice President of Community Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer at Cleveland State University since 2013. During this time, he has created a Diversity Action Plan with three main goals: ensure the campus’ two diversity councils are made accountable for carrying out the diversity plan, focus on retention and completion of degrees for students of color, and adding more multicultural programming on campus. Dr. White’s mission is to ensure Cleveland State is the most multicultural university in Ohio.



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For additional information about Dr. Byron White or to arrange an interview, please contact Jerry Thomas at Jerry@JerryThomasPR.com or (312) 285-5166 or Elizabeth Gow at Elizabeth@JerryThomasPR.com or (224) 245-3478.

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