

## “WOODSON/FRANKLIN TALKS”

**(INAUGURAL WOODSON TALKS (2009) renamed WOODSON/FRANKLIN TALKS (2010))**

### **Forging Pathways to Multiculturalism and Interracial Understanding in the Twenty-First Century**

The purpose of this proposal is to solicit support in hosting a series of “Woodson/Franklin Talks” co-sponsored with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH). The purpose of the “Woodson/Franklin Talks” would be to engage the public in a series of “courageous conversations” that will address the problem of “race” and methods of “racial reconciliation” pursued historically in the United States and around the world. The thoughts and ideas of Dr. Carter G. Woodson found in his 1933 seminal work *The Mis-Education of the Negro* and in *Carter G. Woodson’s Appeal*, written in 1921, but published in 2008, will serve as the springboard for this series of conversations.

It is our hope that each talk in the series will be recorded and made available to students, teachers, and future researchers interested in making the connections between the advocates of “cultural pluralism” in the early twentieth century, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the “multicultural movements” at the dawn of the twenty-first century. In 2009 we commemorated several significant historical anniversaries and this series of “Woodson/Franklin Talks” served as a venue for making the connections between the past events and the contemporary racial environment in the United States. The event commemorated included:

- (1) The Bicentennial of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln
- (2) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NAACP
- (3) The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- (4) The one-year anniversary of “Pen or Pencil Movement” the youth-led movement begun in 2008 on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, and dedicated to documenting the contributions of children and young people to the Civil Rights Movement.

In addition, 2009 witnessed the inauguration of Barack Obama, an African American, as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. This historic event served as another important backdrop for the “Woodson/Franklin Talks,” which examined not only how Americans got to this point, but also offered answers to a question posed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968: “Where Do We Go From Here?”

The goals for the “Woodson/Franklin Talks” are:

- To educate the public about the prophetic leadership of Dr. Carter G. Woodson in the areas of race relations and racial reconciliation;
- To articulate a vision of racial reconciliation for the twenty-first century;
- To educate the public about the history of race relations in the United States;
- To promote constructive dialogue around contemporary issues aimed at improved interracial understanding;
- To assist the leaders in communities, schools, and places of worship in bridging racial divides that they may encounter;
- To identify and advance potential solutions for continuing racial problems in the areas of education, employment, housing, health care, crime, and law enforcement.

These goals were inspired by Dr. John Hope Franklin’s autobiography “Mirror to America” when he shared the goals set forth in 1997 by “the President’s Initiative on Race” a seven-member panel charged with directing a national conversation on race relations where Dr. Franklin served as the chair. When he was named to the post, Franklin remarked, “I am not sure this is an honor. It may be a burden.” Dr. Franklin is one of Carter G. Woodson’s most celebrated mentees – in Dr. Franklin’s own words at the 2007 ASALH Annual Meeting where the Association honored Dr. Franklin and celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Franklin’s seminal work “*From Slavery to Freedom*” Dr. Franklin said, “Dr. Woodson mentored me from the time I met him at my first Association meeting until the day he died in 1950.” The addition of Dr. Franklin’s name to this distinguished series of ‘*courageous conversations on*

*race*’ honors Dr. Franklin as the man who without dispute can be credited most with not only the continuation of Dr. Woodson’s legacy but also the most significant contributions to creating the field of African-American history and dominating this field for nearly six decades until his death in 2009. It is an honor to make this distinction in January 2011, the month and year of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Mentoring Month and year designated as the International Year for People of African Descent. No other person can be given this honor. The Woodson/Franklin mentoring relationship is a stellar example that “a mentor leaves a lasting impression: one that inspires the greatest of leaders.” (Croom 2009—Kiamsha Historic Mentor Poster Series)

In the same year as the inaugural Woodson Talks that took place in February 2009, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year beginning 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent (A/RES/64/169). In 2011, the year of the following significant anniversaries (1) 150 Anniversary of the Civil War, (2) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Inaugural Holiday Celebration, (3) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Mentoring Month and (4) The International Year for People of African Descent, it is our goal to encourage colleges/universities, churches and synagogues, communities around the world to host these talks to provide a historical backdrop to continue and promote conversations that will enlighten and awaken people around the world to promote harmony among people of all cultures and begin to speak of all as members of one race, the human race.

### **Introduction and Background**

The year 2009 was momentous for a number of reasons. We commemorated the bicentennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, the centennial of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and the eightieth anniversary of the birth of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The anniversaries served as the occasions for reexamining the monumental changes in the nature of race relations in the United States. Dr. Carter G. Woodson was not only “the Father of Black History,” he also was a major

commentator on the past, present, and future conditions for African Americans. In his seminal works *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, first published in 1933, and in *Carter G. Woodson's Appeal*, written in 1921, but first published in 2008, Dr. Woodson offered his assessment of the major social issues facing American society. Dr. Woodson's perspectives on "cultural responsive teaching" and "multicultural education" served as the basis for beginning dialogue on these significant anniversaries among the participants in the 2009 Inaugural "Woodson Talks." The connections were made between the issues surrounding President Lincoln's role in ending the practice of slavery in the United States and Dr. Woodson's efforts to end the "mental slavery" that still bound black and white Americans through the publication of *The Journal of Negro History* (1916), *The Mis-Education of the Negro* (1933), and the *Negro History Bulletin* (1937).

In the inaugural "Woodson Talks (2009)" and the "Woodson/Franklin Talks (2010)" the emphasis will be placed on making the connection between the focus in *Carter G. Woodson's Appeal* on interracial understanding and Dr. Martin Luther King's pursuit of the "Beloved Community" in the 1960s. For example, in his *Appeal*, written in 1921, Dr. Woodson declared that "Let every Negro be considered not according to his color, but according to what he has done or is doing for the good of his family, his community, and his country." In his now world-famous speech "I Have a Dream," delivered in August 1963 at the March on Washington, Dr. King spoke eloquently of his dream that in the United States, he looked forward to the day when men and women "would be judged not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character." These conversations will allow us to enter into a dialogue that will attempt to answer the question: What must we do to achieve Dr. Woodson's vision and Dr. King's Beloved Community?

In 2011, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MLK Day of Service holiday and the International Year for People of African Descent as proclaimed by the United Nations, the "Woodson/Franklin Talks" will serve as a venue for bridging the generations and offer insights from the youth as

well as adults in improving interracial understanding. The Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization, the embodiment of ASALH's efforts to reach out to the younger generation, has been engaged in an 11-year partnership and collaboration to take Dr. Woodson and Dr. King's message to youth in the twenty-first century. The "Annual Youth Day" program has become a regular feature at the ASALH conventions. This Kiamsha-led activity engages hundreds of students from the public elementary and secondary schools in the convention city, making them aware of the importance of understanding the contributions of African Americans to United States history and the history of the world and offering them ways that they too can make a difference in improving interracial understanding in the schools, neighborhoods, and communities. The Kiamsha youth have inspired their peers through their singing and performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which has become the "Negro National Anthem," but was originally written and composed by James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson in 1900 to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Woodson believed that the song should be shared with all people and the Kiamsha youth have engaged multicultural groups of youth in learning the historical significance of the song. During the bicentennial anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the Kiamsha youth participated in the "Woodson Talks" promoting lessons of interracial harmony and historical understanding through the programs and activities surrounding "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and in 2011 the Kiamsha youth will venture to form interracial choirs to perform the singing of this anthem as a method to promote harmony and encourage groups of youth around the world to do the same.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson believed that "there is no set solution for the problem of race except to learn to think." In *"The Mis-Education of the Negro,"* Dr. Woodson declared that "the mere imparting of information is not education. Above all things, the effort must result in making a man think and do for himself." Dr. Woodson devoted his entire life to the research, documentation, interpretation, and dissemination of accurate information on the history of people of African descent, and he hoped that members of other ethnic groups, especially those living in

the United States, would do the same. This aspiration became a reality in the 1980s when the proponents of the multicultural movement in the United States were successful in gaining legislative action to put in place “month-long celebrations” of women, Hispanics, and other ethnic groups in the United States. Thus in addition to being the Father of the Black History movement, Dr. Woodson was the inspiration for the multicultural education campaigns in the United States.

Upon Dr. Woodson’s death in 1950, Mary McLeod Bethune, black leader and founder of Bethune Cookman College and ASNLH president at the time, called Dr. Woodson a “timeless leader.” “He was a prince among men,” declared Bethune, “true all the way through to the cause of democracy of which we both labored together. He dug down into the cells of darkness and revealed to us the background of the Negro, while he kept us constantly aware of history in flux around us, still responsive to shaping by today’s dynamic action—and of our duty to contribute to that action in increasing measure.” The “Woodson/Franklin Talks” seek to build upon Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s timeless leadership in the pursuit of Dr. King’s Beloved Community.

### **Specific Objectives**

The inaugural “Woodson Talks” took place on February 4, 2009, at the Historical Society of Washington, DC, and the series of “Woodson/Franklin Talks” will continue 2010 and into 2011, the International Year for People of African descent. Through a partnership forged with the schools of communications (like Howard University School of Communications, et. al), this series of talks will be videotaped and digitally preserved and archived by research centers such as the Moreland Spingarn Research Center and Emory University’s Carter G. Woodson Library. Dr. Woodson’s papers already stored at both research centers and through these institutions arrangements will be made for reproductions of the “Woodson/Franklin Talks” to be made available to schools and other educational organizations and institutions.

The initial series included a multicultural group of speakers who shared the results of their scholarly research and experiences with the audience and participated in a dialogue about the significance of Dr. Woodson and Dr. King's legacies for interracial understanding in the twenty-first century. In addition, the "Pen or Pencil Movement," given its positive impact on the young people, was utilized to guarantee the participation and engagement of young people in the issues addressed by the speakers in the "Woodson/Franklin Talks." The Pen or Pencil Movement has been engaged in the development and dissemination of curricular materials on the contributions of children and young people to the Civil Rights Movement. For example, the Pen or Pencil Movement's curriculum has a unit on the "Montgomery Bus Boycott," that not only discusses the contributions of Dr. King and Mrs. Rosa Parks, but also examines the activities of young people in helping to sustain and make sure the boycott was a success. The youth are introduced to strategies responsible for the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and informed about other nonviolent direct action protest tactics that have been employed in movements for social change. It is the intention of this project to engage the Pen or Pencil Movement in the development of additional educational materials related to the topics of the "Woodson/Franklin Talks" that can be utilized in the ASALH "Annual Youth Day" at the national convention, and for dissemination through programs sponsored at public schools in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Separate funding will also be sought by the supporters of Kiamsha Youth and the Pen or Pencil Movement for the development of curricular materials on "Children and Young People's Contributions to the Civil Rights Movement."

The "Woodson/Franklin Talks" will highlight Carter G. Woodson's extensive activities serving youth in the past, and promote ASALH's recent work in building bridges to the next generation and preparing today's youths to take their lead in the campaigns to improve interracial understanding and gain justice for all mankind.

## **Plans for Additional Promotion of “Woodson/Franklin Talks”**

Information on the Woodson/Franklin Talks will be disseminated broadly to local universities, churches, schools, government agencies, and other groups and institutions. These organizations will be also encouraged to participate in sponsoring “Woodson/Franklin Talks” in the future. The initial kick-off in February 2009 included an extensive promotional campaign, containing information about upcoming talks and promoting support for the ASALH activities and programs through membership and also through additional donations to ASALH that will secure a limited edition copy of *Carter G. Woodson’s Appeal*, as well as the “Black History Month” materials.

### **Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)**

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is the world’s oldest organization dedicated to the research, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of information about black life, history, and culture to the global community. It is the part of American history that embodies the determination of African Americans to ensure that their story and contribution is not treated, as Woodson often said, as “a negligible factor” in American and world history. While he labored with a singularity of purpose, Woodson did not work alone. His co-workers at the Association were many, ranging from college presidents and government officials, to celebrated poets and philosophers, to everyday folks in rural hamlets. To explore the history of ASALH is to glimpse a people’s strivings and successes, their individual and collective growth, and their institution building. To bring that history to life in one’s imagination is to walk with giants.

ASALH was housed in Dr. Woodson’s home from its beginning in 1915 until 1970, twenty years after his death. It is presently housed on the campus of Howard University, but is purchasing a permanent location near the Woodson home. In 1976 the Woodson house was designated a National Historical Landmark. It was acquired by National Park Service in 2005 and will become a visitor’s center when restoration is complete.

ASALH continues to publish the quarterly journal begun in 1916 and other periodicals for use by teachers, scholars and the general public. It operates the ASALH Press that is a major source of Black Historical theme products and Black History publications. The Association operates through member branches at local, state, institutional and international levels. It has membership categories that reach everyone from students to seniors and all in between. Around the first week in October each year the annual meeting is held in a major city. A wealth of information and opportunity to join this work is available on the organization’s website [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org).

### **Biography of Carter G. Woodson**

Carter Godwin Woodson was born December 19, 1875, in New Canton, VA, the son of former slaves. He was age 20 when he entered high school, and yet at age 37, in 1912, was the second Black man to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) housed in his home at 1538 9th Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C. In 1916 he began quarterly publication of the *Journal of Negro History*, and in



1937, at the urging of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune to provide a publication for teachers by teachers, published the Negro History Bulletin that comes complete with lesson plans. He worked to intensely study and document the contributions of people of African descent through the work of scholars/historians. His many books and articles heralded the truth about a people who were previously neglected, or given a biased and distorted view in the written records of the world. His most widely read book, *The Mis-Education of The Negro* (1933), is still in print and speaks as profoundly to the social morass of today as it did when first published.

Dr. Woodson established the field of black studies and provided a resource for other scholars to write and teach on the subject. A great educator himself, he taught at Dunbar & Armstrong High schools In Washington, D.C., was Dean of Liberal Arts at Howard University and Dean at West Virginia State College.

He laid the foundation for rethinking the identity of America as a multiethnic nation of people. The multiculturalism of our times is built on the intellectual and institutional labors of Woodson and the association he established.

In 1921, Dr. Woodson wrote a manuscript that has been lost for over 80 years entitled "Carter G. Woodson's Appeal" confronting the treatment of the Negro at the time. ASALH published and released this manuscript at the 2008 Annual Meeting as a limited edition and its words are a stunning revelation of the need for reconciliation even today. In February 1926 he established Negro History Week which is now celebrated as Black History Month. His work established him as not only the Father of Black History, but also a pioneer of the multiculturalism theme that underlies the entire Free World. He died in 1950 in his adopted city, Washington, D.C and is buried in the historical Lincoln Cemetery, Suitland, Maryland.

### **Biography of John Hope Franklin**

John Hope Franklin was the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, and for seven years was Professor of Legal History in the Law School at Duke University. He was a native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Fisk University. He received the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Harvard University. He has taught at a number of institutions, including Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, North Carolina Central University, and Howard University. In 1956 he went to Brooklyn College as Chairman of the Department of History; and in 1964, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, serving as Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970. At Chicago, he was the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor from 1969 to 1982, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Professor Franklin's numerous publications include *The Emancipation Proclamation, The Militant South, The Free Negro in North Carolina, Reconstruction After the Civil War, and A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-bellum North*. Perhaps his best known book is *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, now in its seventh edition. His Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities for 1976 was published in 1985 and received the Clarence L. Holte Literary Prize for that year. In 1990, a collection of essays covering a teaching and writing career of fifty years, was published under the title, *Race and History: Selected Essays, 1938-1988*. In 1993, he published *The Color Line: Legacy for the Twenty-first Century*. Professor Franklin's most recent book, *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*, is an autobiography of his father that he edited with his son, John Whittington Franklin. His research at the time of his death dealt with "Dissidents on the Plantation: Runaway Slaves."

Professor Franklin was active in numerous professional and education organizations. For many years he served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro History*. He also served as President of the following organizations: The American Studies Association (1967), the Southern Historical Association (1970), the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1973-76), the

Organization of American Historians (1975), and the American Historical Association (1979). He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Fisk University, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

Professor Franklin served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, from which he resigned in 1979, when the President appointed him to the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He also served on the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments. In September and October of 1980, he was a United States delegate to the 21st General Conference of UNESCO. Among many other foreign assignments, Dr. Franklin served as Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University, Consultant on American Education in the Soviet Union, Fulbright Professor in Australia, and Lecturer in American History in the People's Republic of China.

Professor Franklin was the recipient of many honors. In 1978, *Who's Who in America* selected Dr. Franklin as one of eight Americans who has made significant contributions to society. In the same year, he was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He also received the Jefferson Medal for 1984, awarded by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In 1989, he was the first recipient of the Cleanth Brooks Medal of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and in 1990 received the Encyclopedia Britannica Gold Medal for the Dissemination of Knowledge. In 1993, Dr. Franklin received the Charles Frankel Prize for contributions to the humanities, and in 1994, the Cosmos Club Award and the Trumpet Award from Turner Broadcasting Corporation. In 1995, he received the first W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1996, Professor Franklin was elected to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame and in 1997 he received the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. In addition to his many awards, Dr. Franklin has received honorary degrees from more than one hundred colleges and universities.

Professor Franklin has been extensively written about in various articles and books. Most recently he was the subject of the film First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin. Produced by Lives and Legacies Films, the documentary was featured on PBS in June 1997.

## MODERATOR FOR INITIAL “WOODSON TALKS”

### John Whittington Franklin



Director of Partnership and International Programs, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, since August 2005, responsible for developing programs and partnerships.

## PANELISTS FOR INITIAL “WOODSON TALKS”

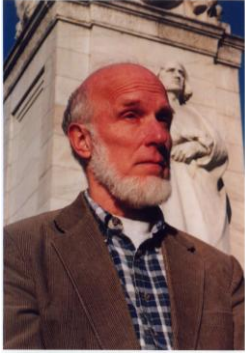


### Daryl Michael Scott

ASALH’s Vice President for Programs and Publication Chair, Editor of the recently released “*Carter G. Woodson Appeal*,” Dr. Scott also serves as Chair of Howard University’s History Department. Born and raised on the Southside of Chicago, coming of age in the late 1960's, Dr. Scott attended Catholic schools until he volunteered for the military, serving during the peaceful years of Jimmy Carter's presidency. Afterwards, he attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, where he received my doctorate in history in 1994. For just over a decade, Dr. Scott has taught history. Presently, he serves as Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at Howard University, residing in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Over the last five years, Dr. Scott has devoted his life not only to family and scholarship but also to revitalizing the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The oldest black intellectual and scholarly organization in the world, ASALH fulfills his aspirations to promote black history and to contribute to African American institutional life. Dr. Scott is currently Vice President for Programs for ASALH. He labors under the following belief: A people without institutions is **not long to remain a people, and will become whatever others would have them be.**

## James W. Loewen



James Loewen's gripping retelling of American history as it should, and could, be taught, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, has sold more than 800,000 copies and continues to inspire K-16 teachers to get students to challenge, rather than memorize, their textbooks.

Jim Loewen taught race relations for twenty years at the University of Vermont. Previously he taught at predominantly black Tougaloo College in Mississippi. He now lives in Washington, D.C., continuing his research on how Americans remember their past. *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong* came out in 1999. The Gustavus Myers Foundation named his new book, *Sundown Towns*, a "Distinguished Book of 2005."

His other books include *Mississippi: Conflict and Change* (co authored), which won the Lillian Smith Award for Best Southern Nonfiction but was rejected for public school text use by the State of Mississippi, leading to the path breaking First Amendment lawsuit, *Loewen et al. v. Turnipseed, et al.* He also wrote *The Mississippi Chinese: Between Black and White*, *Social Science in the Courtroom*, and *The Truth About Columbus*.

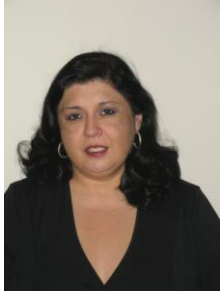
He has been an expert witness in more than 50 civil rights, voting rights, and employment cases. His awards include the First Annual Spivack Award of the American Sociological Association for "sociological research applied to the field of intergroup relations," the American Book Award (for *Lies My Teacher Told Me*), and the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award for Distinguished Anti-Racist Scholarship. He is also Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

## Raymond Winbush



Dr. Raymond Winbush is an academic psychologist, motivational speaker and focuses his research on: 1) Black males, 2) reparations, 3) diversity and 4) racism. His research interests also include infusing African American studies into school curricula, African American adolescent development, Black male and female relationships and the influence of hip hop on contemporary American culture. He is the author of numerous articles on the "politics" of Afrocentricity and the resistance it encounters among scholars who wish to maintain existing intellectual paradigms. His book, *The Warrior Method: A Program for Rearing Healthy Black Boys*, (Harper Collins, 2001), is a comprehensive African-centered program for rearing Black boys in a racist society. *Should America Pay?: Slavery and the Raging Debate over Reparations* was published in 2003 and hit *Essence Magazine's* bestsellers list shortly after its publication. It has been called by Cornel West a "must read" when it comes to understanding the struggle for reparations. He revitalized the historic Race Relations Institute at Fisk University in 1998, the only institute of its kind housed at an HBCU, through a five year \$2.6M grant he received from the Kellogg Foundation. A \$50,000 grant from the Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith Foundation established The Warrior Institute in Baltimore that teaches the Warrior Method to teachers, parents and community organizers. His consultations are numerous. His travels and lecture stage includes Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, France, Holland, Barbados, Belgium, Honduras, Ecuador, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire and Jamaica, where he seeks to understand how African people have influenced world culture. He has made appearances on the CBS Morning Show and Black Entertainment Television and the Oprah Winfrey Show with the cast of the critically acclaimed film, *Crash*. A life member of ASALH, Dr. Winbush's associations include former membership on the Executive Board of the National Council for Black Studies and former President of the Southern Region of the Association of Black Culture Centers. He has consulted widely with organizations ranging from the Joint Center for Economic and Political Studies, National Research Council, the Ford Foundation, and several American universities. He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of both the *Journal of Black Studies*, and *Africalogical Perspectives*. He also held Board memberships on the Center for Democratic Renewal chaired by Rev. C. T. Vivian and the National Vanguard Leadership Program, chaired by Camille Cosby which has been instrumental in recording the lives of elders in the American African community.

## **Cynthia Vidaurri**



Cynthia is a professional folklorist/ethnographer that has worked in the field of cultural representation for over two decades. For ten years, she was a Folklife Specialist and curator at the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage where she researched and developed Smithsonian Folklife Festival programs, exhibitions, web products, and sound recordings. She also developed several culture-based education kits and training programs for educators on how to use culture in the classroom. Her research interests include ranching culture, traditional medicine, traditional belief systems, the politics of cultural representation, cultural identity, and the use of traditional culture in media and marketing. She has conducted research in the U.S. Southwest, Mexico, Cuba, Bermuda, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. She has published book chapters and articles on a variety of cultural expressions. Prior to coming to Washington, she taught for eight years at Texas A & M University-Kingsville, a largely minority serving university. There she taught courses in cultural diversity, folklore, and U.S-Mexico regional studies. She also taught elementary school for five years and served on several curriculum development and textbook selection committees. Through her consulting firm, Cultivar, she advises and provides training on community museums, cultural/heritage tourism, and crafts development. Currently she is the Research Unit Manager at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum the American Indian. She holds a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a M.A. from Texas A & I University.

## **Gabrielle Tayac**



Dr. Gabrielle Tayac is a Historian at the National Museum of the American Indian. A member of Maryland's indigenous Piscataway Indian Nation and a Harvard trained sociologist, she is a scholar-activist who has devoted her career to indigenous peoples' rights and creating allies from all societal sectors for that purpose. Dr. Tayac has served on staff and boards of various human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Survival International. She was a key organizer in hemispheric indigenous social movements through the 1980s and 1990s culminating in many Central and South American national constitutional changes to include rights clauses for indigenous peoples. Dr. Tayac joined NMAI in 1999 and co-curated the inaugural exhibition, *Our Lives: Contemporary Native Life and Identity*. In 2007, her exhibit, *Return to a Native Place: Algonquian Peoples of the Chesapeake* opened at the museum, coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement. Currently, she is co-curating a travelling exhibit that will open in September 2009, *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*.

## Eileen Kugler



Eileen Kugler passionately champions the unique benefits that diversity brings schools and communities. She challenges audiences to break through society's "myth-perceptions" about race and culture, empowering them to go beyond *celebrating* to *advocating* for diversity. Eileen's award-winning book, "Debunking the Middle-Class Myth: Why diverse schools are good for all kids," is inspiring honest dialogue in boardrooms, classrooms, and living rooms. Her commentaries appear in publications from USA Today and The Washington Post to Educational Leadership and The National School Boards Journal. Eileen's commitment was motivated by the inspired education of her own white middle-class children at one of the most diverse schools in the nation, with students from wide-ranging cultures and economic backgrounds, hailing from nearly 90 nations. Blending her professional expertise as a communications expert with her volunteer commitment, Eileen worked collaboratively with administrators, faculty, parents, students and community members to rebuild the school's crumbling community support and turn it into a vibrant focal point of its multicultural community. Eileen was named Education Advocate of the Year by the American Association of University Women-Virginia. Today Eileen speaks to audiences from Anchorage to Atlanta, Chicago to Seattle, and consults with school districts and communities throughout the country.

## Franklin Odo



Franklin Odo has been Director of the Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution, since its inception in 1997. (He retired in 2010) He was a professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i and was visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Hunter College, Princeton and Columbia Universities in the 1990s. He received an MA in East Asia Regional Studies from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Japanese history from Princeton University. He edited the Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience, published by Columbia University Press in 2002. No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i during WWII was published by Temple University Press in 2004. Odo was guest editor of a special issue on APA cultural institutions in aapi nexus, a series published by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The APA Program is the key unit within the Smithsonian assisting 19 museums and other agencies in incorporating APA artifacts, programs, research, and outreach. It also serves as the portal through which dozens of APA communities access the Smithsonian. The APA Program has brought to the Smithsonian exhibits focusing on Chinese Americans, Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, Vietnamese Americans, and Filipino Americans. Several have traveled or are traveling to various sites across the country. The Program has launched two new initiatives: one to focus on Indian American history and culture and the second to create a pan-APA exhibition.