An event of national and international significance will take place in Minneapolis on October 11-13, 2012. The Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota will host the 4th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality. This free conference will interest all those who see, every day, the consequences of inadequate education, housing, health care, and income. It is an opportunity to learn from and interact with prominent researchers and policy makers from around the world who are committed to finding solutions.

No matter where you travel in the world, economic disparity can be seen in income, employment, and wealth formation in the minority populations of any region. The consequences of these disparities manifest themselves in home ownership rates, small business ownership rates, credit access, incarceration rates, child welfare system involvement, academic achievement, family structure and even health outcomes. Why do these differences arise and persist across the globe?

"Efforts to combat racial and ethnic economic inequality must be grounded on a solid understanding of the underlying causes of the differences," explained Roy Wilkins Center Director Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., Director, a national authority on the methodology of conducting disparity studies and a pioneer in the use of applied econometric techniques to examine racial disparities, "The traditional process of analysis, on which policies are based, does not account for the structural differences that exist between communities of color and majority-group communities. The history, culture, and relationships in our communities are ignored. In their place, flawed assumptions about the deficient behaviors within communities of color become the foundation of policy. Such policies will not work. Problems of inequality are best solved when those who have the problem act to define the solution."

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