

MEDIA ADVISORY / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008

Twin Cities Community Gathers to Discuss Race

YWCA's Sixth Annual "It's Time to Talk" to help foster cross-cultural understanding

WHAT: More than 1,100 Twin Cities residents will gather in the Minneapolis Convention Center on Nov. 12 to discuss race at the Sixth Annual "It's Time to Talk: Forums on Race". The YWCA of Minneapolis organizes the event as part of its on-going mission to foster cross-cultural understanding and strengthen our communities' commitment to work against racism.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Eric J. Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, is known for his personal passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and for working to identify solutions that address our country's achievement gap.

"It's critical for our community to increase the quantity – and the *quality* – of our conversations about race and racism," says Jolly. "Race is a part of so much of American society and culture and affects each of us in both small and profound ways. Our conversations can help us explore how our experiences with race shape the way we see ourselves and others."

Dr. Jolly's lifelong contributions to diversity initiatives include founding the National Institute of Affirmative Action in 1994, currently serving on numerous national advisory boards, including the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, and publishing scholarly articles and curriculum, such as and "Beyond Blame: Reacting to the Terrorist Attack." Dr. Jolly is also a lifetime member of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

Dr. Jolly will present the forum's keynote address and then attendees will participate in small-group, circle dialogues about race, moderated by YWCA-trained facilitators.

More than 3,300 individuals have attended "It's Time to Talk" since its inception in 2004. Feedback from many who attended last year showed the event motivated them to help improve race relations in their communities. A limited number of individual tickets are still available for this event. Registration closes Friday, Oct. 31.

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Program and keynote speaker

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Small circle dialogues about race

WHERE: Minneapolis Convention Center

1301 Second Ave. S.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55403

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Dr. Eric J. Jolly**, keynote speaker and president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, and **Anita Patel**, YWCA Director of Racial Justice and Public Policy, are available to discuss the impact that open dialogues about race can have on the community.
- **Mary Brainerd**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Minnesota based Health Partners, can speak to the experience of incorporating circle dialogues into the workplace.
- Media members are invited to film before or after the event. During the event, media is welcome to photograph shots of the event, but not make sound recordings of individual table discussions.

WHY: At the YWCA's 6th Annual "It's Time to Talk" luncheon, community members will become allies, activists and friends, working together for racial equality and understanding. They will engage in conversations about race and privilege, creating cultural understanding and committing to work toward social change. The event coincides with "Dialogues on Race Day," decreed for Nov. 12, 2008, by the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the state of Minnesota.

The YWCA of Minneapolis works with more than 2,500 people annually through its Racial Justice community programs, which include public forums, community dialogues, and training in unlearning racism and understanding privilege.

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