



CMC News

December 2014

President

Monica Regan

Executive Director

Eugene Dumas

Treasurer

Nodee McNeal

Board of Directors

Glen Barwegen

Ruby Donahue

Cynthia Pryor

Melisa Watson

The Center for
Multicultural Communities

202 S. Halsted

Chicago Heights, IL

60411

708-709-3797

cmcdirect@gmail.com

Message from the Director

2014 has been a very eventful year with encouragements and disappointments. The encouragements have pointed to achievements. Disappointments have clearly illustrated that the end of discrimination and racism is a work in progress. In some areas our society has excelled in other areas there are dismal failures. The overwhelming indicators are that continuing courageous work must be done to facilitate racial and cultural harmony in our society.

In the midst of societal upheavals The Center for Multicultural Communities has forged ahead to help rid society of the twin evils of discrimination and racism. Our activities have varied from consulting with various groups, supervising the development of individual's plans to foster good racial and ethnic relations, eradicating stereotypes, a hate crime prevention seminar, conducting workshops advocating affirmative fair housing and the end of discrimination regardless of its nature, and creating anti-racist plans.

CMC has shown and continue to show people groups who are different can collaborate to solve problems. The only deterrent to solving existing problems is the failure of groups to work together.

Eugene Dumas

Eradicating stereotypes

CMC helped plan and facilitate a discussion on a strategy for eradicating existing stereotypes that men of color face. Some of the ideas presented during the discussion were that men of color conduct themselves with dignity, exercising self-control, be mentally tough, obey existing laws, avoid the appearance of being a threat, and be a cooperative citizen.

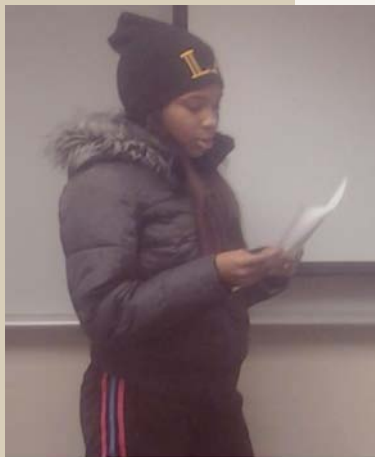
Hate crime prevention seminar

Diversity Inc. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) consulted with CMC about conducting a workshop at Prairie State College (PSC) on hate crime prevention. We gave our suggestions and the workshop was successfully conducted at the PSC auditorium. It was well attended and well received.

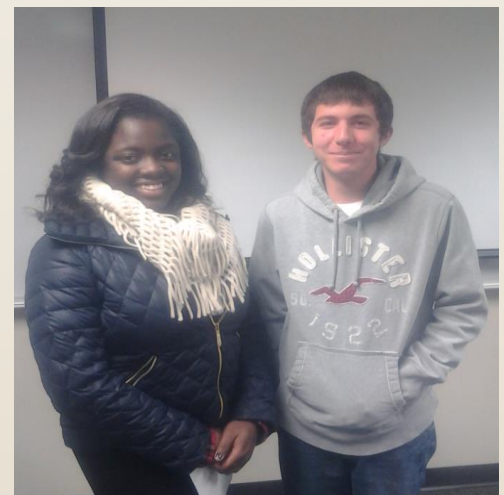
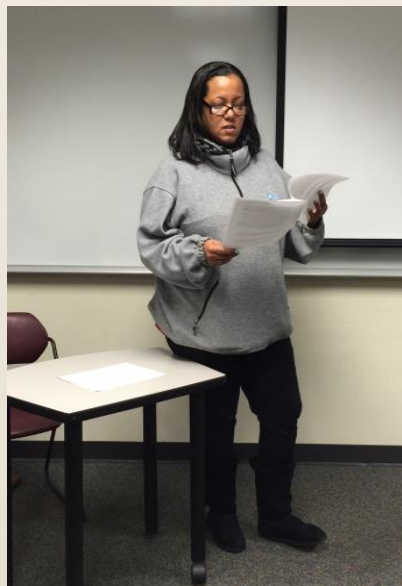


Ambassadors for ethnic and racial harmony

CMC leaders guided teams of Prairie State College students as they studied, discussed, and reported on 10 major people groups. Afterwards, they developed their own plans to foster good racial and ethnic relations. They emphasized honest, ongoing communication between groups. The students realized this involves leaving their comfort zones and entering the uncomfortable, *unknown zones* if they are to be successful. If their strategies are implemented, our region will benefit from a new set of ambassadors for ethnic and racial harmony.



Among the Prairie State College students participating in the project on cultural competence were Krishona Shepherd (left), Joanne Williams (bottom left), Angelea Washington (below), Candid Gardner and Jeremy Buttice (bottom right), and Christopher Gubbins and Karen Muhammad (right).



December 2014

President

Monica Regan

Executive Director

Eugene Dumas

Treasurer

Nodee McNeal

Board of Directors

Glen Barwegen

Ruby Donahue

Cynthia Pryor

Melisa Watson

The Center for

Multicultural Communities

202 S. Halsted

Chicago Heights, IL

60411

708-709-3797

cmcdirect@gmail.com

Fair housing workshops

Jim “Wess” Wessendorf and Eugene Dumas conducted workshops that showed the historical significance of fair housing concerns. Despite the passing of 15 or more federal fair housing laws there is still opposition to affirmative fair housing in the United States. Wess gave a comprehensive summary of the laws that are currently in place to foster affirmative fair housing, with clear illustrations of how they affect people’s lives. He also explained how affirmative fair housing can facilitate inclusion.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 28

Affirmative Fair Housing

Spring 2015

CMC Community Celebration

A Quote to Remember

“It’s hard to describe, really, but when you’ve spent your whole lifetime with limited opportunities, spent your whole lifetime being told your place is at the bottom – that entire mixture helps create a low image of yourself.”

– John Perkins

Let Justice Roll Down

An Open Invitation

Come and join us as we work to promote cultural and racial harmony. You may do so with a tax deductible contribution.

Associate membership – \$20

Graduate membership – \$30 plus completion of a workshop