

Dismantling Systemic Racism: Activities at Other Universities

[University of Vermont](#) | [Macalester College](#)

University of Vermont - Two-day event to examine 'dismantling racism'

Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in "Building Our Community: Dismantling Racism at UVM: Challenges and Opportunities" on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 6-7 [1997], on the UVM campus. The two-day event, in its second year, seeks to continue building a community where differences are embraced and where no one is marginalized, organizers say.

Three key workshop leaders will be featured:

- Dr. Ronald Takaki, one of the nation's foremost spokespersons for multicultural education, will kick off "Building Our Community" with a lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, in Ira Allen Chapel. The topic of his talk will be "Multiculturalism and the Culture Wars." Takaki is the award-winning author of "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America," a retelling of the country's various immigrant histories. The grandson of Japanese plantation laborers in Hawaii, he is a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California at Berkeley. His new book is titled "Hiroshima: Why America Dropped the Atomic Bomb." Takaki also will speak as part of the learning day on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., in an interactive workshop on the curriculum, titled "Doing Multiculturalism."
- Dr. Dorceta Taylor, an expert on issues related to environmental justice, on Nov. 7 will speak at a morning workshop on "American Environmentalism: The Role of Race, Class and Gender in Shaping Activism" and meet in a lunchtime discussion session with interested participants. Taylor is an assistant professor of sociology at Washington State University.
- Dr. Willi Coleman, associate professor of history and ALANA studies at UVM, will lead a workshop on "Colored Negroes and African-American Blacks: The Evolution of a Term" the morning of Nov. 7. Coleman, who was founding director of the Center for Women and Ethnic Issues at California State University at San Luis Obispo, has presented papers throughout the country on topics related to race and gender. Currently, she is teaching an upper-level, undergraduate seminar in African-American history.

The workshops presented by Takaki, Taylor and Coleman are just several of the more than 30 that will be offered as part of the learning day on Nov. 7. Numerous faculty, staff and students are involved in organizing and presenting the interactive sessions. Five paths of learning will be emphasized: campus climate; historical perspectives; personal awareness and responsibility; institutional action; and curriculum transformation.

During the afternoon of Nov. 7, participants will meet in groups to create action plans for eliminating racism and fostering an equitable and just community at UVM. The groups' recommendations then will be incorporated into a discussion with UVM President Judith A. Ramaley, as part of the closing session.

The "Building Our Community" events are free, but registration is necessary by Oct. 31. A complete, descriptive brochure was mailed out recently. Information and registration also is available on the Web at <http://www.uvm.edu/~bocday> or by calling 6-8623.

Macalester College - Breaking Chains: Dismantling Racism in Higher Education

A documentary focusing on the development and organizing of a group of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members at Macalester College (St. Paul, Minnesota) who are attempting to dismantle and undo racism at the institutional level.

Discusses the need for this type of education and its effect using the setting of an anti-racism education workshop set-up by the group and a national workshop attended by the group. Incorporates interviews with group members and national activists/organizers, personal video diary entries of workshop participants, and images from the workshops to convey the importance and difficulty of the work this group does. (1999)

Producers: Lorne Lieb , James Robinson , The Macalester College Dismantling Racism Group

Director: Lorne Lieb

Running Time: 37

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