

Black Brown Dialogues on Policy



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2023

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****Media Advisory****

Black Brown Community Response to Attacks on DEI Programs

AUSTIN, TX – Tuesday, February, 14 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Black Brown Dialogues on Policy is in solidarity with the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus in response to attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and policies that support groups who have been historically underrepresented or discriminated against. Attendees are invited to ask questions learn more about DEI programs and how they provide safe and equal opportunities in jobs and education.

"DEI is about correcting centuries of discrimination. To not continue to do so will have a profound impact on our black and brown communities." - Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D. Director, Texas Center for Education Policy University of Texas Austin

"We urge the media to be careful about how it covers DEI policies. It should not be taken as fact that DEI policies are illegal or unconstitutional. If any government official says that is the case, then the media should require that the statement be backed by evidence and facts, not just someone's statement. As a check on government, the media has an obligation to sort fact from fiction. The facts are that DEI policies are ways of People of Color to apply for state jobs and admission to state universities. And on the part of state agencies and universities, DEI policies are simply goals — without the force of law or consequences — that aim to move the needle forward so that state agencies, public colleges, and universities reflect the people who pay the tabs to sustain them." - Alberta Phillips, Austin journalist who worked for 32 years as a reporter and editorial writer at the Austin American-Statesman, covering state government and higher education.

WHEN: Tuesday, February, 2023 at 9:00a.m. CT

WHERE: **Austin State Capitol Speaker's Committee Room 2W.6**

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY: Angela Valenzuela, Ph.D.
Honorable Senator Royce West
Junichi Lockett Jr., Ph.D., IUPRA - UT Austin
Anne-Marie Nunez, Ph.D., UT El Paso
Irma Reyes, Exec. Dir., Mexican American
Legislative Caucus

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