



*The Wake Forest University*

# Race, Inequality & Policy Initiative

Summer 2021 Newsletter

## Letter from the Director



Dear RIPI Family,

It is hard to believe that the year that RIPI launched was one of the most tumultuous years in the history of Wake Forest University. As we slowly (and optimistically) enter the end stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, our nation is more divided politically, economically, racially and socially than ever before. Still, RIPI's presence at WFU along the important work spearheaded by numerous WFU institutes, centers and offices give me hope for the future of our university and the broader Winston-Salem community.

This past academic year was quite productive. We established our website ([ripi.wfu.edu](http://ripi.wfu.edu)), Twitter site (@race\_policy), and published three virtual libraries. We organized five speaker events on topics surrounding immigration, criminal justice reform, and education. Though our events were virtual, we had up to 163 individuals attend one event and averaged 75 attendees per event. We co-sponsored three events with the Office of Civic and Community Engagement, Journalism Program, Counseling Pi Alpha Chapter, Office of the Provost, Program for Leadership and Character, Humanities Institute, and the Intercultural Center. Our seven Latinx Mentoring Initiative mentors participated in virtual tutoring at Latino Community Services and donated \$1000.00 worth of tablets and school supplies thanks to the donation of a generous donor. During the spring 2021 semester, we launched the RIPI Undergraduate Research Fellows program with seven fellows working with four RIPI faculty on individual research projects and the development of our virtual libraries. We have also developed partnerships with two local non-profits, Forsyth Futures and Latino Community Services.

As I look back on the accomplishments of the past year, I am thankful for:

- 1.) The RIPI Steering Committee (Alessandra Von Burg, Amanda Griffith, Hana Brown, Kami Chavis, Lisa Kiang, Peter Siavelis, Sara Dahill-Brown and Sherri Lawson-Clark) for their guidance, organization of fantastic speaker events, and mentoring of students on research projects;
- 2.) RIPI's partners (American Ethnic Studies, Anna Julia Cooper Center, Economics department, Education department, Humanities Institute, Intercultural Center, Latin American and Latino Studies, OCCE, Office of the Provost, Politics department, RECAAL, SRMP, Sustainability Office, URECA) for promoting, participating and supporting RIPI events and activities;  
and
- 3.) YOUR ongoing support in promoting, attending our events, sharing our virtual library resources with students and colleagues and following RIPI ([@race\\_policy](https://twitter.com/race_policy)) on Twitter.

I look forward to another successful year. Below you will find some information that may be of interest. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you are interested in getting involved with RIPI initiatives.

Wishing you a productive yet relaxing summer,



## **Mark your calendars! RIPI's Fall 2021 Events**

### **Housing and Discrimination Virtual Event**

Organized by Sherri Lawson-Clark with UNCG and WSSU's Center for Economic Mobility as potential partners  
Tentative Date & Time: Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30pm

### **Housing and Immigration Event**

Organized by Alessandra Von Burg with Latino Community Services as a potential partner  
Tentative Date & Time: Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30pm

### **Researching Vulnerable Populations Event**

Organized by Alessandra Von Burg with Forsyth Futures as a potential partner  
Tentative Date & Time: Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30pm

## **Missed our 2020-2021 events? Check out the recordings below!**

Fall 2020: “Latinxs and the Covid-19 Pandemic” event [here](#), “Mobilized by Injustice” event [here](#)

Spring 2021: “Uncovering Inequity and College Access” event [here](#), “Racial Inequities in Student Loans” event [here](#), “Student Assignment, De/Segregation and Justice in Public School Systems” event [here](#)