

A Farewell Message from Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams

Founder and Director, Socialrirci Greetings! Ubuntu!

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA, 1998-2000; Director, Center for Health Equity Promotion and

Wade Center for Health Equity Promotion and Community Engagement, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA, 2000-2008; start.

In the last two decades at Case Western Reserve

To all of you who are reading this, I want to say: it is my expectation and utmost hope that the Social Justice Institute – in staying true to its heartbeat and mission – will continue to grow and engage in meaningful and impactful work!

Indeed, the Social Justice Institute has another fabulous year in store for you! As we move into the 2017-18 academic year, it is time again for the Institute's Biennial Think Tank. This year's theme is "Educating for Struggle: State Violence, Then and Now." Save the date and join us November 16th-18th. The Institute also will continue to build its Social Justice (SJUS) Minor Program; work with its SJI-Supported Student Groups; offer student conference travel grants; host its monthly research luncheon series; have its faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research grant competitions; sponsor and co-sponsor a multitude of programs; and so much more! (Visit the website regularly for details and updates.)

Please stay engaged. Continue to support SJI both through participating and giving. Gifts of any size will impact its work and support signature programs. Donations may be made online or sent to Social Justice Institute, CWRU, 10900 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106-7243.

In closing, this likely goes without saying: We are in a qualitatively different kind of "tryin' times." Truth be told, for many people locally and globally, times have always been trying. But the current moment requires that we continue the work towards understanding, analyzing, diagnosing, discerning, and strategizing against retrogressive, inhumane forces. Whether they are individuals, institutions, or the state. Whether they masquerade as advocates, or unabashedly spew hateful "-isms." We must teach, write, speak, and act powerfully for social transformation. As one of my favorite Audre Lorde quotes states: "When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak."

My very best and, as always, In Struggle,

Dr. Rhonda

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