A partial list of invited speakers includes:

Dr. Horace Mitchell    Dr. Joseph White
Dr. Lizzette J. Smith   Dr. Patricia Griffen
Dr. Robert Williams III Dr. Robert Johnson
Dr. Gerald Early       Dr. Michael Strube
Dr. Garrett Duncan     Dr. John Baugh
Dr. Jonathan Fenderson  Dr. Rob Wild

ANTICIPATED ITINERARY
8:30 – 9:00 Coffee & Continental Breakfast
9:00-9:10 Welcome - Provost Holden Thorp
9:10 – 10:20 Faculty Presentations
10:20 – 10:30 Break
10:30-11:30 Faculty Presentations
11:30 – 12:15 Robert Williams – Keynote
12:15- 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 2:50 Invited Speaker Presentations
2:50 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 4:00 Invited Speaker Presentations
4:00 – 5:15 Student Presentations
5:15 – 5:30 Robert Williams – Final Remarks
5:30 – 6:30 Wine and Cheese Reception

Robert Lee Williams II is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology and African and African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis and a prominent pioneering figure in the history of African American Psychology. He is well known as a stalwart critic of racial and cultural biases in IQ testing, for coining the word “Ebonics” in 1973, and for developing the Black Intelligence Test of Cultural Homogeneity. He has published extensively, including several groundbreaking books that greatly enhance social science, education, the law, and racial equality. Dr. Williams was a founding member of the Association of Black Psychologists, and served as its second President.

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The Office of the Provost
The Dean of Arts & Sciences
The Department of Psychology
The Program in African and African American Studies
The Program in Linguistics
The Department of Education
The Black Alumni Council

A Conference
In Honor of
Robert L. Williams

FOUNDATIONS OF DIVERSITY
AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AND THROUGHOUT ACADEMIA

September 12, 2014
Umrath Lounge 8:30am – 5:30pm
Washington University in St. Louis
Robert L. Williams: A Scholar, Gentleman, Father, & Visionary

A man of multifaceted talents, Robert Williams has contributed greatly to the lives of many people throughout the United States and the entire world. He provided early leadership of Black Studies at Washington University, and his contributions to the foundations of diversity give cause for celebration. Professor Williams is a loving husband and father of eight children. His devotion to family is unsurpassed. Indeed, many of his exceptional contributions to science, society, education, and the law were inspired by compassion nurtured by the love of his wife, Ava, and their exceptional children. He is a tireless champion of those who have been oppressed, and his intellect and vision have helped to uplift and transform humanity.

Washington University in St. Louis is proud to host a conference in esteemed tribute to Professor Emeritus Robert L. Williams. Born in Biscoe, Arkansas in 1930 during the era of Jim Crow, Professor Williams graduated from Dunbar High School in Little Rock, Arkansas at the age of sixteen before earning a BA degree (cum laude with Distinction) from Philander Smith College in 1953. He then attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, receiving a M.Ed. in educational psychology in 1955 at a time when all graduate programs in the South remained segregated. Determined to pursue doctoral studies, Professor Williams enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis where he earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1961. Always committed to the welfare of others, Dr. Williams worked as a Staff Psychologist at Arkansas State Hospital where he was the first African American psychologist to be hired at a State Mental Health facility in Arkansas. He later served as Chief Psychologist at the Jefferson Barracks Veterans Affairs Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri before becoming Director of a Hospital Improvement Project in Spokane, Washington. In addition, he served as a consultant for the National Institute of Mental Health. Professor Williams created the “Black Intelligence Test of Cultural Homogeneity” by drawing from a glossary of African American vernacular and personal experience. He coined the term Ebonics and edited Ebonics: The True Language of Black Folks in 1975. He also formulated “Black Personality Theory,” presented in his second book, The Collective Mind: Toward an Afrocentric Theory of Black Personality. He developed the concept of “racial scripting” which describes the ways in which many children have acquired racist predispositions at a young age. His Senate testimony pertaining to the Ebonics Controversy was instrumental in many educational reforms that have enhanced academic prospects and outcomes for black students across the nation.

“We’re doing the right thing at the right time for the right people.”

Robert Williams: Keynote Address, 2008 Association of Black Psychologists
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAqHmKIXZBE