1984

30 years after ... (Invitation)

Rhode Island College

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"We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka

On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court finding that "separate but equal" public school facilities were unconstitutional, and ordered that cities throughout the nation begin planning for desegregation. Brown was considered a landmark decision in the black struggle for civil rights.

Rhode Island College will host a conference on May 2 and 3 to commemorate the Brown decision. Participants will examine anticipated and unanticipated consequences of school desegregation, focusing on the problems which the nation still faces, especially unequal educational opportunity, urban poverty and social inequality. The litigation and confrontations which followed the Supreme Court decision on both state and federal levels will be reviewed and assessed. The conference will provide an opportunity for discussion among scholars, leaders of educational, community, and civil rights organizations; members of teacher unions; and all who are interested in social equality.

May 2

Morning Session
Beginning at 9:30
Thirty Years After: Anticipated and Unanticipated Consequences
Address by Kenneth Clark
Forum: The Brown Decision
The historical significance of Brown and its impact on social, economic and judicial policies
The social and economic effects of Brown on the South and on the country
The effects of busing and desegregation on public education
With Kenneth Clark, Jack Greenberg, Jim Nabrit, Jack Finger

Afternoon Session
Beginning at 2:00
Forum: Educational Equality: Access and Achievement
An assessment of minority achievement since Brown
The inequities that remain in educational access and achievement
Strategies and exemplary programs for retention and advancement in higher education
With Charles Willie, Richard Donovan

Open Reception
Faculty Center, 4 pm
The public is cordially invited to attend a special reception and meet with conference guests and participants.

May 3

Morning Session
Beginning at 10:00
Forum: Civil Rights and Organized Labor: Responsibilities and Political Consequences
Address by Herbert Hill with response by Herman Coleman

Afternoon Session
Beginning at 2:00
Address: New Coalitions, Partnerships and Policies to Promote Social Justice
Mary Berry

All forums and addresses will be held in Gaige Hall Auditorium.

Kenneth Clark’s talk is sponsored by the S & H Foundation (Sperry and Hutchinson Company)
Conference funded in part by the Committee on College Lectures, Rhode Island College

For more information (401) 456-8100
The conference is free and open to the public.

May 2-3, 1984
Rhode Island College
Providence, RI
A conference to commemorate the Brown decision

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May 2-3, 1984
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