

Southeast Working-Class Task Force joining two local organizations

Working Group on Education and Poverty

SEW-CTF is a member of Mayor Joe Hogsett's Working Group on Education and Poverty (WGEP). Meeting since late February, participants are tasked with addressing the barriers in education faced by the impoverished. Their areas of focus are: housing/food; physical/mental health; safety; and racial bias/civility.

See *Indy Star*, "Hackney: A mayor on a mission to eradicate poverty."

<http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/columnists/suzette-hackney/2017/05/26/hackney-mayor-mission-eradicate-poverty/345535001/>

SEW-CTF is in WGEP because of the work/connection of some task force members to anti-poverty actions which started the Southeast Poverty Study Circle (now SEW-CTF) in 2012. See the 2014 study circle produced documentary on poverty in southeast Indy, "Who owns poverty?" www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrQjaXBLC1I

SEW-CTF is on the "Racial bias and civility" committee. One of its goals is lowering suspension and expulsion rates. Keeping our southeast students in school and graduating is also vital to SEW-CTF. See our published papers on our schools developing an anti-poverty curriculum to both advance academics and to ease and eradicate of poverty:

- <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SEW-CTF-Urban-schools-as-site-to-contest-inequalities.pdf>
- <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SEW-CTF-A-comprehensive-vision-for-the-transformation-of-southeast-Indianapolis-public-education.pdf>

Race & Cultural Leadership Network

SEW-CTF is currently joining the Race & Cultural Leadership Network (RCLN) of the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee.

RCLN is a group of business, civic, and community leaders who gather monthly to talk about ways to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in Indianapolis and comes to visit the city. See <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indianapolis-group-discusses-ways-to-improve-race-and-cultural-relations-in-the-city>

SEW-CTF recommends RCLN:

- 1) add the working-class culture to the network's scope of cultures it wants to recognize, appreciate, and support;
- 2) add socio-economic class as a factor in understanding/improving quality of life; and,
- 3) understand that Indy's not just segregated by race, but by class. Viewing the map from the 2010 census, one sees that south of Washington St. is (and has been) majority white working class. See that Indianapolis is one of the 21 most segregated US cities. Note the low percentage of African Americans south of Washington St. on the map.
 - <http://www.businessinsider.com/most-segregated-cities-census-maps-2013-4>
 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/5560477952/in/album-72157626354149574/>

John Harris Loflin

Chair

SEW-CTF

john.loflin@seindy.org

SEW-CTF meets the 3rd Wed. of the month on the 2nd floor at 901 Shelby St