

Southeast Working-Class Task Force November/December 2018 Newsletter

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force becomes a member of the Indianapolis Race and Cultural Relations Leadership Network

SEW-CTF brings the factor of social class into local discussions of race and culture

SEW-CTF brings the factor of social class into the orientations and discussions of the Race and Cultural Relations Leadership Network (<http://indygipc.org/initiatives/rcrln/>) (RCRLN) and teacher education at the IUPUI School of Education.

The RCRLN is a standing committee of the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (GIPC). It was established to serve as a mechanism to foster positive relationships among diverse populations and to respond to racially and culturally charged issues in the greater Indianapolis community. The RCRLN was established in 1994 as a recommendation of Mayor Goldsmith's Vision Indianapolis Tomorrow initiative. Since then, the RCRLN has operated mainly behind the scenes to address issues such as police-community relations, business and economic development, immigration, and education.

It is well-known that race and culture are seen as important factors in trying to understand society. SEW-CTF has pointed out to RCRLN the fact Indy segregated not only by race but social class. Although currently neo-colonialism (i.e., gentrification) is changing the demographics of Indy's working-class neighborhoods, according to the 2010 census our city is one of the 21 most segregated in the US. Added to this is the insight that Indianapolis is not only segregated by race, but by class.

Note the low percentage of African Americans south of Washington St. on the map and consequently the high number of white and in this case mainly working-class.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/5560477952/in/album-72157626354149574/>

Also, note this story on the history of race and systemic racism on the Indy's Southside: [Rich local \(Southside Indy\) heritage lives on in forgotten areas](#)

To support SEWCTF's contention, chair John Harris Loflin and member Angie Calvert were invited by IUPUI School of Ed urban PhD program graduate assistant Gayle Cosby to speak to her class of pre-service elementary teachers.

Cosby had her class read *Hillbilly Elegy*. She's also had students read the SEW-CTF paper on the Southside working-class community: "A proposed compromise regarding the Southside debate: "College or die" vs. "Not everyone needs to go to college."
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/A-proposed-compromise-regarding-the-southside-debate-College-or-die-vs.-Not-everyone-needs-to-go-to-college.pdf>

SEW-CTF discussed the importance for teachers, who want to be culturally relevant, to add the white working-class culture to their list of cultures they must appreciate in order to be culturally competent.

The SEW-CTF newsletter is composed by task force chair John Harris Loflin The task force meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at 6:30 on the 2nd floor at 901 Shelby St. (john.loflin@seindy.org)