Second Annual “No Hate” Town Hall at Kean University to Explore Injustice, Poverty and Racism in New Jersey

March 14, 2018

Kean University, in collaboration with the American Conference on Diversity (ACOD), will hold a “No Hate” Town Hall at the New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics building on Kean’s campus (1075 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083) on Friday, March 16, from 4-7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to engage with the community about current issues impacting people in New Jersey.

The public is invited along with all members of the Kean University community. Seating is limited. Please register for the free event – visit http://www.kean.edu/no-hate-town-hall. Follow the discussion on social media using #NoHateNJ.

The conference will feature a keynote by Renee Wolf Koubiadis, LSW, who will discuss the key findings from the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey’s recent report The Uncomfortable Truth: Racism, Injustice and Poverty in New Jersey, highlighting the intersectionality of poverty and structural racism.

Ms. Koubiadis has helped disempowered populations use their voices toward social change for more than 15 years, and has educated thousands of people on issues of poverty, leadership and civic engagement. She helped create Garden State Leaders, a leadership and advocacy institute for people impacted by poverty, and recently served as co-chair for Governor Phil Murphy’s Transition Team Housing Committee.

“Kean University prepares students to think critically and to be active and contributing members of society,” said Kean President Dawood Farahi, PhD. “The No Hate Town Hall gives them and the Kean community an opportunity to engage in discussion on some of today’s most pressing topics and learn ways to advocate for change.”

Topics will include economic justice, criminal justice, children and youth, health, hunger and mental health. In addition to the presentation, the town hall meeting will include a panel discussion with experts from advocacy organizations that respond to the harmful impact of bias, bigotry, discrimination and hate. Panelists and speakers will include Reverend Eric
Dobson, outreach coordinator for the Fair Share Housing Center; Johanna Calle, director of New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice; Norma Bowe, PhD, Kean University education professor and founder of the Be the Change; former New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak; and Emily Cubilete ’17, Kean University alumna.

“The American Conference on Diversity serves as an advocate, an educator, a facilitator, a motivator, and a convener of people to promote respect, diversity and inclusion,” said ACOD President and CEO Elizbeth Williams-Riley. “This town hall will offer a courageous space for public discourse and discussion to move forward.”

The No Hate Town Hall is sponsored by New Jersey Natural Resources. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, call ACOD at (732) 377-2081 or visit http://www.americanconferenceondiversity.org/.

About Kean University

Founded in 1855, Kean University has become one of the largest metropolitan institutions of higher education in the region, with a richly diverse student, faculty and staff population. Kean continues to play a key role in the training of teachers and is a hub of educational, technological and cultural enrichment serving nearly 15,000 students. The University’s six undergraduate colleges offer 50 undergraduate degrees over a full range of academic subjects. The Nathan Weiss Graduate College offers five doctorate degree programs and more than 60 options for graduate study leading to master’s degrees, professional diplomas or certifications. With campuses in Union and Toms River, New Jersey, and Wenzhou, China, Kean University furthers its mission by providing an affordable, accessible and world-class education. Visit http://www.kean.edu/.

About the American Conference on Diversity

The American Conference on Diversity is dedicated to building just and inclusive schools, workplaces, and communities through awareness, education, and advocacy. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1948 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Today the programs, services, and initiatives of the American Conference on Diversity are among the most important work, focused on creating a more inclusive society. It is the unfinished business of living in a highly diverse nation: educating and empowering our next generation of leaders, enhancing our workplaces, and helping to create inclusive communities. Visit http://www.americanconferenceondiversity.org/to learn more.