

Dear Friend of the Symposium,



Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the Eighth Annual Louis Gregory Symposium on Race Unity to be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014, on the campus of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin. The Symposium will be from 1 to 4:30 pm.

Jointly sponsored by [Huston-Tillotson University](#) and the [Austin Baha'i community](#), this annual event honors the work of [Louis Gregory](#) and asks participants to join together to consider what can be done to further his life-long vision of creating racial amity and equity.



We are very pleased and excited to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's symposium is Ms. Joyce James, LMSW-AP.

Joyce James began her professional career as a Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworker and has established an impressive 33-year history in the field of child welfare and in addressing racial inequities in various systems. She has a powerful story of her journey from CPS caseworker to head of the State of Texas' Child Protective Services and then to Associate Deputy Executive Commissioner of the [Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities](#). Ms. James is currently a private consultant working with systems and communities to achieve racial equity.

Ms. James' knowledge and expertise in raising awareness and increasing understanding of the underlying causes of disproportionality and disparities as told through the story of her personal journey is widely recognized in Texas and across the country. She is credited with presenting testimony and data that resulted in Texas becoming the first state in the country to establish legislation to address racial disproportionality.

Ms. James has presented as a keynote and provided workshops at numerous state and national conferences. Ms. James has provided consultant services to multiple systems in various states and jurisdictions across the country using a model created under her leadership that is aligned with the [People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](#). Her efforts to address these critically important issues have proven to have a positive and often live changing impact on systems and community leaders.

In addition to the keynote speech by Ms. James, there will be a presentation on the exemplary life and great works of Louis Gregory and scholarship awards to Huston-Tillotson University students in his name.

Finally, there will be a lively panel discussion with distinguished community members, including former Austin police chief Stan Knee, joining Ms. James in discussing the topic of race relations and race unity today.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you there!

For more information about this event, please contact Dale Fowler at [mdalefowler14@gmail.com](mailto:mdalefowler14@gmail.com)