



# New Detroit Leadership Summit on Race

**OCTOBER 2008**  
**Opening Night Report**



*Young leaders tackle issues of hidden racism in New Detroit Inc.'s Youth Leadership Summit on Race*

New Detroit, Inc. established in 1967 as the first urban coalition dedicated to race relations in America, is Southeastern Michigan's premier race relations organization. We are proud to present our 2008 Leadership Summit on Race, where business, labor, government, religious and community leaders will

- *discuss issues identified through a recent United Way community survey and*
- *collaborate on a measurable action plan to break down racial barriers and encourage revitalization*

*At this year's summit we will continue close the gap on the racial divide and foster co-operative interracial planning and development. We hope to*

- *bridge barriers and deal with racial inequities*
- *build understanding and strengthen collaboration*
- *bring about positive change in racial dynamics of Southeast Michigan*
- *encourage economic and social revitalization*

*New Detroit hopes this open, collaborative focus will be a model for other efforts.*

*We believe the work we do here will serve as a regional and national model.*

## **Speakers**

**Shirley R. Stancato**

*President and CEO, New Detroit, Inc.*

**Brad Verona**

*Seaholm High School*

**Chuck Stokes**

*Editorial/Public Affairs Director, WXYZ-TV Channel 7*

**Rick David**

*Vice President Organizational Affairs, United Way for Southeastern Michigan*

**David W. Campt, Ph.D.**

*Lead Facilitator, The DWC Group*

**David Hecker**

*President American Federation of Teachers – Michigan*

**Randa Fahmy Hudome**

*President, Fahmy Hudome International*

**Karen K. Narasaki**

*Executive Director, Asian American Justice Center*

**Markeith Weldon**

*President, SDE Vital Resources*

**Brent Wilkes**

*National Executive Director, League of United Latin American Citizens*



*... positively impacting the issues and policies that ensure economic and social equity.*

# Who's Here Tonight?

Participants came from across the metro area, representing five different sectors and a diversity of racial and ethnic identities:

ETHNICITY/RACE	ATTENDING	GENDER	ATTENDING
Asian/Asian American	5%	Male	37%
Black/African-American	54%	Female	63%
White/Caucasian	25%		
Chaldean	1%		
American Indian/Native American	3%		
Latino/Hispanic	4%	GENERATION	ATTENDING
Arab	5%	Teens	12%
Mixed Race	5%	Twenties	4%
Other	0%	Thirties	7%
		Forties	19%
		Fifties	39%
		Sixties	17%
		Seventies	1%
		Eighties	1%
		Nineties or better	0%

  

SECTOR	ATTENDING
Business	16%
Health Care Industry	5%
Education	15%
Media	2%
Faith Based	6%
Community Organizations	28%
Government	10%
Other	20%

## New Detroit Hosts Youth Planned Summit

***"Our young people face these issues during one of the most crucial times of their lives...they should be armed with vigilance to keep an open mind to the cultural differences they encounter as they grow."***

**Shirley R. Stancato**

On Saturday October 11, more than 200 teens from throughout southeast Michigan tackled the difficult subject of hidden racism at New Detroit, Inc.'s second Youth Leadership Summit on Race. The sold out one-day conference entitled "Racism on the Down Low: Hidden Racism" was planned by a committee of 65 high school students. The young people met bi-monthly, from June to September, framing the theme, deciding on content and contributing speakers for the event.

"The diligence and unity of these young people is extraordinary," said Shirley Stancato, President and CEO of New Detroit, Inc. "Not only did they plan the event, but the committee rallied their friends and classmates to join in the conversation. As a result, the summit was not only sold out, but had a waiting list for potential participants." The keynote for the morning event was Dr. Robert W. Simmons, III, an assistant professor in the College of Education at Eastern Michigan University who has devoted extensive research to the issue of race and education. Dr. Simmons is also a contributing author of *White Teachers in Diverse Classrooms: Creating Community, Combating Racism* (2006).

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