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University of Kansas

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An Examination of the Status and Role Conflict of Administrators of Color Working in Predominantly White Universities

Sherwood Thompson
University of Kansas

This session engages administrators in a short phenomenological interview which examines their attitudes about and perceptions of working predominantly White university settings.

This time block will consist of scheduled interview sessions with some of the conference administrators of color who work in predominantly White institutions.

One of the greatest challenges that predominantly White colleges and universities will face in the 21st century is to ensure a solid commitment to sustain diversity and to expand opportunities for administrators of color.

This session engages administrators in a short phenomenological interview which examines their attitudes about and perceptions of working in predominantly White university settings. The intent of this research is to focus on the specific aspects of role perceptions of administrators of color and their status on university campuses. In short, this research interviewing session intends to engage participants in discussions that will examine factors that contribute to advancing equality in the workplace.

The significance of this research is to allow administrators of color to speak out in their own words. Their voices will report on the impact, effectiveness, rank, and conflict they experience on university campuses. This phenomenological interview data will allow researchers and educators to learn what unique experiences administrators of color endure and what induces them to pursue higher education careers.

PRESENTER

Dr. Sherwood Thompson is the Director of Minority Affairs at the University of Kansas. Thompson is active in community events and was just appointed to the Governor's Special Committee to study African Americans in Kansas City. Thompson has been a presenter and participated in many conferences relating specifically to people of color and enhancing minority enrollment in colleges and universities.