

**THE FOURTH BIENNIAL**  
**“RACE, ETHNICITY, AND PLACE CONFERENCE”**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**  
**NOVEMBER 5 - 8, 2008**

✓ **Mission Statement:** The Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference fosters dialogue on issues related to the racial and ethnic transformation of places. The **overriding purpose** of REP is to promote understanding among the myriad of groups in American society, through research and discussion. REP encourages interdisciplinary perspectives and philosophical and methodological diversity. REP is open to participation by academicians, students, practitioners, lay persons and government, business, and nonprofit agency representatives. The Conference ideally rotates among U.S. regions, incorporating a regional focus, while maintaining national and international perspectives. ☸

✓ **REP History:** The 2002 REP Conference was hosted by SUNY at **Binghamton** and was the brainchild of that university’s Department of Geography and the University’s Administration. The 2004 REP was hosted by Howard University in **Washington, D.C.** and the Association of American Geographers. The 2006 REP was hosted by Texas State University in **San Marcos**. The 2008 REP will be hosted by the University of Miami. ☸

✓ **About the REP Conference:** The REP Conference has become a major event. The 2006 REP had 1,300 participants, attracting experts from such **diverse fields** as anthropology, economics, foreign language, geography, history, law, literature, music, philosophy, political science, sociology, and others. Government officials, university administrators, and representatives from agencies providing services to minorities were also among the participants, who came from all over the U.S. and 15 foreign countries. Funding was provided by **25 corporations and businesses**. ☸

✓ **Why Miami is the Perfect Venue:** Miami is now the **premier American immigrant city**. The 2000 U.S. Census reported that immigrants were 51% of the Miami-Dade County population, by far the highest percentage of any major metropolitan area in the *world*. Miami has experienced greater proportional changes in its ethnic and racial composition than any other American city during the past half century. From 1960-2006, the percentage Hispanic increased from 5% to 62%; the percentage Black increased from 15% to 20%; and the percentage non-Hispanic White decreased from 80% to 18%. Other significant Miami groups include subgroups of Hispanics (Nicaraguans, etc.) and Blacks (Dominicans) and Jews. ☸

Hosting the Fourth Biennial REP Conference will afford both the University of Miami and Miami an opportunity to showcase the **benefits of ethnic and racial diversity**. In November 2006, Representative Tom Tancredo (Colorado) referred to Miami as a “Third World County.” He did not mean this as a compliment! These words offended many in Miami, but they *do* reflect the perception that many have of Miami. The Fourth REP Conference will demonstrate to academics, government officials, and civic leaders across the U.S. and the world that Miami has been transformed from a city overwhelming dependent upon tourism to one sustained by a diversified and healthy economy. In 1960, New York City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Houston all had more trade with Latin America and the Caribbean than Miami. Today, principally because of its large Hispanic population, Miami is now widely considered to be the “Gateway City” between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean. ☸

✓ **Location of the Conference:** The 2008 REP Conference will be held at the beautiful James L. Knight International Center in Downtown Miami (400 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue). The meeting hotels are the Hyatt Regency Miami (305-358-1234) and Clarion River Park (305-374-5100), both adjacent to the Knight Center. The Gala Dinner will be on the Coral Gables Campus of the University of Miami. ☪

✓ **Need More Information?:** Visit <http://rep-conference.binghamton.edu>

or contact:

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✓ **How Can Your Corporation or Agency Benefit from Participation?** The Miami REP Conference will convene participants from diverse locations. This will be an opportunity to **showcase your corporation or agency**, emphasizing its role in the transformation of Miami, Florida, and the U.S. You can highlight the advantages of your strategic location in Miami, the “Gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean.” Some corporations and agencies set up booths at the Conference to provide illustrations of the services they provide. Others use the opportunity to showcase their labor force diversification programs, publicize the services they offer to assist the local community, or simply show their community spirit for Miami and the University of Miami. All of this while **contributing to the goal of fostering understanding** between groups! We expect a significant volume of press coverage for the Conference and sponsoring organizations will receive prominent mention in all publicity and Conference publications. ☪

✓ **How Can You Help?** The Miami REP Conference is supported financially by universities, corporations, and government agencies. About \$100,000 has already been raised, but we need additional support to provide the type of event that will reflect well on both the University of Miami and Miami. If you are interested in becoming a conference sponsor, we welcome your support. For more information about funding opportunities either ❶ visit: <http://rep-conference.binghamton.edu> and click on: “ask your organization to be a co-sponsor” or, ❷ contact:

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