



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Race Relations and Diversity: Impacts of Today's Political Climate on Vulnerable Children and Families”

Panel at Upcoming Princeton University Reunions

Princeton, NJ – May 31, 2017 – On Friday, June 2nd, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, a special Princeton Reunions panel discussion will be held in the Carl A. Fields Center on Princeton University’s campus. Princeton Reunions weekend attracts nearly 25,000 alumni, family, and friends for walks, talks, community service projects, Alumni-Faculty Forums, picnics, parties, concerts, dancing, meeting old friends, making new ones, and marching in the one and only P-rade.

Moderator Sheryl WuDunn *88, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, entrepreneur, and best-selling author, will lead five panelists through a discussion on how the dramatic changes that have taken place since Inauguration Day will impact vulnerable children and their families. A flurry of executive orders and cabinet appointments, along with the Republican majority in Congress, foreshadow many challenges for these families. Reduced affordable housing, parental deportations, immigration bans, cutbacks in free and reduced-price meals, Medicaid cuts, education vouchers that reduce funds available for public schools, limited access to healthcare, and an increase in xenophobia are just some of these challenges. The panel will talk about what these changes mean and how average citizens can be supportive and engaged to help those in need.

“Last year our panel discussed diversity as it related to the 2016 Presidential Race. While we touched on the impact the election had on young people, this year’s panel will give us a further look into how very challenging things have gotten for vulnerable children and families,” said Pam Gregory, President & CEO of the Princeton-Blairstown Center.

The panelists include Yessica Martinez ’15, winner of the 2015 Princeton University Pyne Prize and co-founder of the Princeton DREAM Team; Dan-el Padilla Peralta ’06, Assistant Professor of Classics and author of *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League*; Kavita N. Ramdas *88 P16, Feminist Activist and Philanthropic Advisor; Margarita Rosa, Esq. ’74 P07, Former Executive Director of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice and Grand Street Settlement and Trustee of Princeton University; and Sarah Tantillo, Ed.D ’87, educational consultant, author, and Board Chair of the Princeton-Blairstown Center.



Sponsoring organizations include: The Association of Latino Princeton Alumni, Black Graduate Caucus, Department of African American Studies, Graduate Women of Color Caucus, Hidden Minority Council, Latino Graduate Student Association, Princeton-Blairstown Center, Princeton Latinos y Amigos, Program in Latino Studies, The Pace Center for Civic Engagement, The Princeton Progressive, The Princeton University LGBT Center, and The Women's Center.

About Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC)

PBC is an independent nonprofit with a mission to empower young people, primarily from under-resourced communities, to strengthen their social-emotional skills through experiential, environmental, and adventure-based programming. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) includes five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Our wide variety of year-round, multi-service programs serve more than 6,500 students each year.

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