

news & notes

November 2009

APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER

ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE THROUGH RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND JOURNALISM

PUBLISHER OF **COLORLINES**

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RINKU SEN



WITH YOUR HELP, ARC can become the home for Racial Justice that our country urgently needs. We've developed a strategy to reach that goal, and we've made progress. To carry out our most ambitious plans, we need to build a more complex, more powerful organization in 2010. With funding from foundations decreasing in this economy, we rely even more on you, ARC's allies and supporters, to recognize

the critical importance of this political moment and to give us the financial capacity to do more of the work you know only ARC does.

The political landscape is shifting daily, with voices for equity fighting against those who would keep the status quo. It's more important than ever that we popularize the idea of racial justice and produce the tools needed to make it a reality. Everyone who started this year hoping for change is now looking for a way to make a real impact, and ARC can help the racial justice movement to take the lead.

In 2009, we have been preparing to fill this need by distributing our media projects widely, producing new research and trainings, and dramatically expanding our audience base. Loyal supporters like you have responded by using ARC's reports, participating in our conference and national phone calls, and sharing *RaceWire* and *ColorLines* with your communities. Our 2008 Facing Race Conference was our biggest yet, and our web products are more popular than ever, reaching up to 100,000 people monthly.

Our successes are cause to celebrate but not to rest easy. The challenges ahead—from new strategies by the right wing to the label of a “colorblind” society—require even more from us. We must grow as an organization so that we can grasp all the political opportunities to fight for equity. This is crunch time.

There is no way for us to expand ARC without your help. Any amount you give will be extremely useful at this critical moment. I know I can count you in as we develop our programs to ensure that racial justice is among our nation's top priorities.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

NORTH STAR NEWS PRIZE.

ARC's executive director, Rinku Sen, along with Ellis Cose, contributing editor and columnist for *Newsweek*, have been selected as the 2009-2010 recipients of the North Star News Prize. Inspired by the life and work of Frederick Douglass, the North Star Fund is New York City's leading community foundation and a fierce supporter of grassroots movements that bolster struggling neighborhoods and fight against the root causes of poverty, racism, homophobia and gender discrimination.

The North Star News Prize recognizes journalists, mediamakers and communications professionals of color who have made a significant contribution to the public's understanding of the struggle for social justice. The work of North Star News Prize winners inspires us to craft a world by the principles of fairness, inclusion, peace and justice.

The News Prize comes to Rinku at a particularly crucial time in ARC's organizational history, as we transition to a more media-focused organization in order to broaden our reach and audience, and enhance our ability to popularize racial justice concepts.

You can learn more about the News Prize and read Rinku's blog post about what winning the News Prize means to her at www.arc.org/northstarnews.

DONATION LEVELS

\$25 will support the distribution of a new ARC report.

\$50 will pay for one grassroots organization's staff member to participate in a workshop/training.

\$100 will help defray the cost of sending one intern to our Facing Race conference.

\$250 will support the creation of a video blog.

\$500 will help us send a researcher to report on location, gathering original information for stories.

CALL FOR INTERNS



ARC works closely with interns and values their contributions to our organization. Volunteer internships are currently available in marketing, research and media/journalism in both

New York and Oakland offices. The New York office is also looking for a fundraising intern. Please visit our website for more information, www.arc.org

The ARC Midwest office in Chicago is accepting applications for a Facing Race conference intern, who will be responsible for assisting with event planning, grassroots fundraising and outreach for our Facing Race conference to be held at the Hyatt McCormick place in Chicago from September 23-25, 2010. Interested applicants should submit a résumé and letter of interest to Donna Hernández via email, dhernandez@arc.org.

FACING RACE

ARC UPDATES

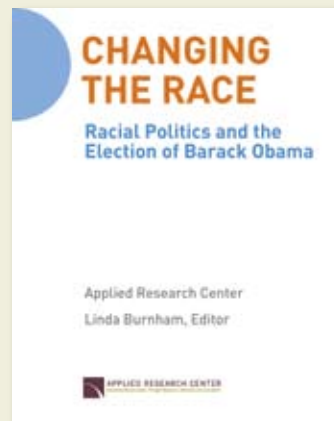
CHANGING THE RACE

ARC has released *Changing the Race: Racial Politics and the Election of Barack Obama*, edited by Linda Burnham, cofounder of the Women of Color Resource Center.

This election reader comes just as the nation debates whether the aggressive criticism of President Obama over the past few months is rooted in racism, and it offers a nuanced critique of his role in our ongoing struggles for justice.

Changing the Race features essays by 20 prominent thinkers and activists with decades of commitment to those struggles, as the writers identify the trends, the lessons, the facts and the lies surrounding the 2008 election.

Get your free copy online or purchase a hard copy for \$9 at www.arc.org/changingtherace.



[ARC updates continued on next page]

thank you

FUNDER THANKS LIST

In addition to you, our deep gratitude goes out to our recent institutional funders who have given us the tools to build a home for racial justice. In 2009, they included:

- Akonadi Foundation
- Arcus Foundation
- The California Endowment
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Mitchell Kapor Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Open Society Institute
- Surdna Foundation
- Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

BOARD TRANSITIONS

ARC's ability to play its unique role in making new paths toward racial justice has always depended in no small part on the expertise, commitment and sacrifices of our board members. At the end of this year, three women who have helped to shape ARC will be leaving the board. We will miss the great energy and dedication that Susan Colson, Esmeralda Simmons and Carol Pencke bring to the fight for racial justice. Susan has been board chair for most of ARC's history and has lent her organizational development experience to guide us through numerous leadership and growth transitions. Esmeralda has contributed her experience and leadership in many ways, especially in the areas of voting rights, public policy and redistricting. Carol has generously shared her expertise in organizational development and fundraising at both the staff and board levels, successfully strengthening ARC's individual donor efforts. Thank you all for your endless contributions, and we look forward to your future involvement as ARC continues to renew itself.

We are confident that our new board members will make equally vital contributions: ARC is pleased and proud to welcome Deepa Iyer and Deanna Zandt. Deepa is the executive director of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) and has been an advocate of civil and immigration rights for over ten years. Deanna is a media technologist who specializes in social media and women and technology.



Deanna Zandt



Deepa Iyer

BOARD MEMBERS

Rinku Sen, <i>President</i>	Victor Goode
Dorian Warren, <i>Chair</i>	Deepa Iyer
Ellen Gurzinsky, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Christopher Rabb
LeeAnn Hall, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Deanna Zandt
Andrea Batista-Schlesinger	Gary Delgado, <i>Emeritus</i>

[ARC updates continued]

GREEN ECONOMY TOOLKIT

The first phase of ARC's Green Economy Toolkit was released in November and includes core equity principles, equity goals and success indicators for grassroots organizations to use to promote racial, gender and economic equity in their communities. It is accompanied by a promotional video, as well as by a case study on green jobs in Los Angeles. The release will be followed by an ARC-sponsored webinar introducing the toolkit and its uses to grassroots organizers.

ARC RELEASES COMING SOON:

STATE REPORT CARDS

While some are trying to keep hope alive in the White House, ARC allies are making racial equity happen at the statehouse. Five years ago, ARC released the first legislative report card on racial equity in California. Fast-forward to 2009: groups from Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Minnesota, Illinois, New York, California, Connecticut and Georgia have now formed a national Racial Equity cohort.

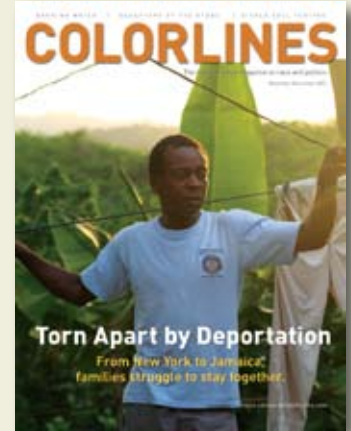


This year, the Organizing Apprenticeship Project of Minnesota and Citizen Action of New York have released state-level racial equity reports. California, Illinois and Minnesota have released their fifth, second and third reports, respectively. And, allies at Colorado Progressive Coalition and the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada released legislative racial equity report cards this year. At ARC, we're working to release an interactive mapping website for the Illinois Legislative Report card on Racial Equity. By Spring 2010, Idaho and Washington Community Action Networks and the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations of Chicago will release their state reports.

In April, ARC organized a special training for the groups, after which they formed the National Racial Equity Report Card Cohort. The formation has developed a peer consulting structure that allows them to share best practices. And there is more to come—more groups, more action and more equity.

TORN APART SERIES

Against a backdrop of a national debate on immigration reform, *ColorLines* magazine went on the road from New York to Jamaica to investigate the human costs of deportation on immigrant communities. *ColorLines* journalists found that harsh immigration policy, compounded by systemic inequities in the criminal justice system, might not be thwarting terrorists or making our country safer. Instead, they are increasingly breaking up families of color through heightened enforcement that punishes families twice, first through incarceration, and second by deportation. The resulting "Torn Apart" article series and multimedia project featuring video and photo essay is online at www.colorlines.com/tornapart.



MEDIA PROJECTS

ARC is deep into a productive Fall lineup for media projects. We're putting together a pilot TV show with LinkTV about race and recession to air in mid-December; ARC board member and founder of afro.netizen.com Chris Rabb will be hosting the show. The RaceWire and *ColorLines* websites will be relaunched as a single website in January. We are making improvements to ARC's technical and media infrastructure with major upgrades to our databases, server technology, video production techniques and much more. A key 2010 project in ARC's effort to popularize racial justice is innovating and testing new media products geared towards young, politically engaged people who use media to make change. If you are interested in being part of our product testing program in 2010, please contact Nayana Sen at senn@arc.org

In addition to all the ARC websites having an upward trend in traffic in the past year, our video content is getting good pickup. The "Word" video series has gotten noticed and played on a variety of blogs. You can watch them online at youtube.com/racialjustice.



SAVE THE DATE 2010 • September 23-25, 2010



FACING RACE

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

HYATT REGENCY
MCCORMICK PLACE
2233 S Martin L King Drive
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www.arc.org/facingrace

DEFINE JUSTICE.
MAKE CHANGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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