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Umoja/LGBT Specialization Present Unity Program at Antioch University Los Angeles

Free, public "Audacity of Unity" event to be held on campus on Friday, February 20, 2009

CULVER CITY, CA – January 28 2009 – The Audacity of Unity: A Celebration of Black History Month is the third chapter in Antioch University's LGBT Specialization in Clinical Psychology's continuing joint venture with the Umoja Task Force. Umoja (meaning unity) is the campus organization charged with infusing African-American culture into the university's community. Taking its cue from President Obama's unifying mission and his call to community service, this event will celebrate our nation's most recent victory with a call to action from community leaders and activists. Also being recognized is the fact that creating unity across lines of difference has long been part of African American heritage. To this end, the evening is an installment in the LGBT Specialization/Umoja Task Force's five-part series on unity, which began with "Opposing Prop. 8 Without Opposing Each Other."

This event will be presented **on Friday, February 20th at 6:00 PM**. In room A1000 of the University's Culver City campus. It will begin with dinner, featuring foods of the African diaspora, and live jazz provided by The Wil Brooks Trio. Dinner will be followed by a panel discussion, and will close with an interactive drum circle

The panel discussion will begin at 7:00 PM, and will feature Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou, author and Associate Minister for Missions, Social Justice, and Community Action at the Middle Collegiate Church. Also speaking will be lesbian activist, Precious Stallworth, the Program Manager of the Sexual Health Programs for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and Dr. Claudia Shields, Umoja Co-chair and Director of Clinical Training. Dr. Shields is a straight African American woman who has become vocal in her stance against heterosexism and in her call for an end to the notion that blacks and gays exist as a separate communities.

She says, "We asked community leaders to share their wisdom with us, and in the spirit of unity between the LGBT Specialization and the Umoja Task Force, we sought out those leaders who are supportive of or aligned with the LGBT community. We are pleased and proud to present both Rev. Sekou and Precious Stallworth,"

After a question and answer session with the invited panelists, the event will feature a drumming circle. All guests are invited to participate – even those who have never drummed before. In an effort to support Antioch's V-Day Project, this year's drum circle is dedicated to the women of the Congo and will be led by the Nigerian-born Master Drummer Ayo Adeyemi. During Mr. Adeyemi's interactive drumming, images of women of the Congo will be projected on the walls "to remind participants that our healing drum beats are for them," explained Dr. Shields.

"I am proud of the leadership taken by the LGBT Specialization in Clinical Psychology and the Umoja Task Force in the light of the Prop. 8 controversy," says specialization director Dr. Douglas Sadownick, "to join forces in a new and empoweringly proactive way to fight racism and heterosexism through community activism and sensitization and to see the many ways in which our communities are linked and overlapping in our fight against the domination of heterosexist white supremacy in our social and psychological worlds."

The event begins at 6:00 pm at the Antioch University Los Angeles campus located at 400 Corporate Pointe in Culver City. General parking is available in the structure adjacent to the University for a small fee, or free evening street parking is available.

Admission is \$15 per person, and include dinner and drum rental (Admission is \$10 for those bringing their own drums). Limited seating is available and reservations are strongly recommended by calling 310-578-1080 x603

For more information, please contact Joanna Gerber, Director of Public Relations for Antioch University Los Angeles at Joanna_Gerber@antiochla.edu or at (310) 578-1080 x119.

Additional information on Antioch University Los Angeles can be found online at www.AntiochLA.edu.

Antioch University is founded on the principles of a rigorous liberal arts education, innovative experiential learning and socially engaged citizenship. These campuses all nurture in their students the knowledge, skills and habits of reflection to act as lifelong learners, democratic leaders and global citizens who live lives of meaning and purpose. In addition to Antioch College located in Ohio, Antioch University is comprised of five nonresidential campuses in Keene, NH; Yellow Springs, OH; Seattle, WA and Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, CA.

For over 35 years, Antioch University Los Angeles (AULA) has proudly and consistently challenged educational conventions to inspire learning and leadership that promotes service to community and positive social change. In addition to a liberal arts undergraduate degree completion program, AULA offers graduate degree programs in clinical psychology, creative writing, teacher credentialing, education and organizational management. Antioch University Los Angeles was recently named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. More information can be found online at www.AntiochLA.edu