



MICHIGAN CIVIL
RIGHTS INITIATIVE

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2004

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SURVEY SHOWS 82% OF STUDENTS AGAINST RACE PREFERENCES AND CONSENSUS AMONG ALL RACES

A recent study shows significant support for the central premise of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) – that preferences based on race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin are “unfair.” 82% of high school juniors disagree with the use of race and similar preferences, according to an understated survey by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA), a research organization providing data to universities nationwide.

The study, released September 20th, demonstrates what MCRI leaders have suggested since its inception. Over 1800 students were surveyed on a variety of questions relating to their perceptions of university admissions policies, “affirmative action,” and “diversity.”

The survey found that 74% of students “believe colleges and universities do use race, ethnicity, or religious background as an admission factor,” and that when asked, “Is it fair?”, 82% overall said it would *not be fair* to do so. The breakdowns show an even more significant consensus across all racial groups, with “87% of Caucasians, 77% of Asian Americans, 76% of African Americans, and 75% of Latinos” saying preferences are unfair.

The study found additionally that “70 percent [of students] say a diverse environment ... is important, with 23 percent saying it's very important,” but that, “56 percent think adults ‘over-emphasize the importance of racial, ethnic, and religious diversity and related issues.’”

While these perceptions are entirely consistent with the view that “diversity” is an important value but should not override the principle of equality, the authors “blame” the statistics on a failure to properly communicate and suggest that elite universities need to re-educate these students. The NRCCUA authors are so bold as to suggest that there is a “correct” definition of “affirmative action,” and that “[o]nly 22 percent knew the correct definition – that affirmative action allows colleges to give ‘positive consideration’ to factors such as race and

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ethnicity.” Don Munce, President of NRCCUA, concluded, “But it appears that schools aren't clearly explaining what their policies are and how they make decisions to achieve diversity.”

Colleges have been engaged for decades in an Orwellian attempt to “re-define” the phrase originally coined in the 1960s to take governmental steps to ensure everyone had *equal opportunity*. As a result of this redefinition, now when most students object to “affirmative action,” they are really objecting to specific programs that give preferences based on race. MCRI supports “affirmative action” as it was originally defined – programs that reach out to *all* racial groups to ensure jobs are posted in as many places as possible, that college applications and admissions are open to everyone, and that K-12 education and other institutions are improved in ways that increase the size of the pool of qualified applicants. These programs all have one thing in common – they benefit everyone and *all* individuals, from any race, can qualify for them.

MCRI would end the more recent programs that have twisted “affirmative action” to include giving preference based upon race or gender. Jennifer Gratz, MCRI’s Executive Director, stated “While diversity is an important value, it should never trump equality. ‘Affirmative action’ was never meant to include the use of race or gender preferences.”

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee (MCRI), a Michigan-based Ballot Question Committee, is dedicated to giving the people of Michigan the opportunity to end preferential treatment based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin by State or local governments. MCRI will make Michigan a place of equal opportunity for all, not a State that uses discrimination as a tool to create “diversity.” Achieving “diversity” and “affirmative action” should never be an excuse to discriminate!

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