On March 28th and 29th, the Clinton School of Public Service’s Center on Community Philanthropy proudly hosted its third annual summit, *Pathways to Racial Healing and Equity in the American South: A Community Philanthropy Strategy*. This year’s event was held in special commemoration of the 15th anniversary of President Bill Clinton’s “One America in the 21st Century” initiative on race, drawing nearly 150 participants from across the nation.

“Our vision for community philanthropy sees race and differences as assets, not as problems. In 1998, President Clinton challenged the whole country to confront our differences in honest dialogue and then to talk about the common dreams and the values that we all share. It’s convenings like this one that promote that kind of dialogue to move towards race reconciliation and healing,” explained Dr. Charlotte L. Williams, Associate Professor and Director of the Center on Community Philanthropy. As she welcomed attendees to the Summit, Dr. Williams also marked the occasion by announcing the release of the Center’s *Second Edition Compendium on Race and Equity*, a collection of scholarly essays.

*Former President Bill Clinton, sharing a special video message to open the Summit*
Honoring the Past

Stephanie S. Streett, former Assistant to President Clinton and current Executive Director of the William J. Clinton Foundation, introduced the keynote speaker for the event, James L. “Skip” Rutherford III.

In his address, Skip Rutherford, Dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, ruminated on the 1998 “One America” report that was issued by a national advisory board appointed by President Clinton. Adding personal touches by speaking directly to honored guests and sharing anecdotes from his childhood and early career, Dean Rutherford highlighted the current day importance of dialogue, one of the recommendations of the report.

“It is the most challenging issue of our time, and I’m talking about race. It is the one we must always focus on.”

James L. “Skip” Rutherford III

Reflections for the Future

Complementing the release of the Second Edition Compendium on Race and Equity, the Center on Community Philanthropy welcomed back four former Scholars in Residence, who contributed essays to the publication.

Moderating the Scholars’ Reflections Panel was the Center’s most recent Scholar in Residence, Dr. Emmett Carson, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Panelists included Chancellor Joel Anderson of UALR; Ms. Minnijean Brown Tricky from the Little Rock Nine; John a. powell, Director of UC Berkeley’s Haas Center for Diversity and Inclusion; and Dr. David Williams Professor of Public Health at Harvard University.
Panels to Promote Healing

Dr. Todd Shields, Director of the Dianne D. Blair Center on Southern Politics and Society, opened the second day of the summit with a presentation on racial attitude poll findings following the 2012 elections. The Blair Center, a research partner of the Clinton School and the Center on Community Philanthropy, recently released a full report on the post-election poll.

“We do not live in a post-racial society.”

-2012 Blair Center-Clinton School Poll Finding

Andrea Price, the Center on Community Philanthropy’s Graduate Assistant and a 2013 Clinton School graduate, moderated the alumni panel that followed. Stephanie Ryan Williams, Class of 2012 and 2013 UAMS MPH graduate; Sanford Johnson, Class of 2009 and Deputy Director of Mississippi First; and Ben Kauffman, Class of 2011 and Social Metrics Manager of Southern Bancorp, gave their professional perspectives on Advancing Social Justice and Equity After the Clinton School.

“We’re focused on outcomes, specifically equitable outcomes.”

-Mr. Cory Anderson

Sierra Fowler, the Center’s Leadership Fellow, moderated the final panel featuring regional foundation leaders. Addressing the topic of Philanthropy: Investing in Social Equity and Change were Dr. Ivye Allen, President of the Foundation for the Mid South; Mr. Cory Anderson, Vice President of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation; and State Senator David Johnson, Vice President of Community Investment at the Arkansas Community Foundation. Each panelist discussed his or her organization’s commitment to driving equitable change in local philanthropy.
A Challenge to Engage

The 2013 Summit on Race and Equity culminated with a fiery public program from Dr. Emmett Carson, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the Center's most recent Scholar in Residence. Presenting his findings from his essay, “Foundations and the Fallacy of a Post-Racial America: African American Men and Civic Engagement,” Dr. Carson delivered a provocative address about the absence, implications and need for a great and unprecedented dialogue about race in America.

“When we have a group so isolated and so marginalized, they not only suffer, we all suffer.”

-Dr. Emmett D. Carson

Using stunning statistics, Dr. Carson asserted that given the circumstances African American men face, exercising race-specific strategies to engage this community cannot be considered reverse racism. Rather, this type of support must be seen as a moral and economic imperative, which should be extended to any group who is able to demonstrate such a critical need.