

Poverty Research Initiative Committee Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2021, 2:30pm

Teams Meeting

Attendees:

[Kent Belasco](#) Assistant Professor of Practice – Finance and Banking, College of Business

[Manoj Babu](#) Instructor of Practice, Supply Chain, College of Business

[Ashley Deutsch](#) Assistant Professor of Marketing, College of Business

[Jessica Zemlak](#) Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

[Dinesh Sabu](#) Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Performing Arts, College of Communications

[Lora Reinholz](#) Instructor of Practice, Finance, College of Business

[Alexandre Martins](#) Assistant Professor, Theology, College of Arts and Sciences and College of Nursing

Gabriel Velez

Marilyn Frenn

Jeanne Hossenlopp

Daniel Bergen

Unable to Attend:

Aleksandra Snowden

Welcome and Introductions

- Participants provided an overview of their respective backgrounds and research interests related to poverty. For a full bio/CV on each of the attendees please click through the link to their webpages

SDC Presentation Discussion

- It was noted that the SDC is early in the development of the Policy Institute for Poverty and Systemic Racism and how wonderful it was to engage the organization at the ground level.
- There remained some question as to how academia might fit into the conversation more intentionally. All agreed it would be good to leverage research to inform action and policy.
- The group agreed it would be helpful to extend an invitation to Lucas Torres to join the committee to help provide greater context for the SDC's efforts and provide a stronger connection. Dan Bergen will reach out to Lucas to see if he would be open to joining the group for a conversation in the future.

Opportunities to Expand PRI

- Ashley recommended a research social for faculty to engage around poverty
- Gabe recommended a lightning talk series to feature poverty research (similar to the COVID-19 Research Community)
- Gabe recommended creating talking points for faculty to share at department meetings
- It was suggested that we find ways to engage colleagues in dentistry, law, and engineering

Additional Events re: the PRI

- Lora recommended securefutures.org - educating attendees about financial futures
- Alexander recommended a College of Nursing presentation on their community engagement initiatives, as well as a presentation regarding the approach he is taking with the Latino community through Catholic Social Teaching. He also mentioned a pathway for discussions around international communities

- Dinesh raised the idea of the intersections between the arts and poverty, including opportunities in documentary film; he also mentioned Neighborhood News Service
- Kent identified that banks would be interested in the opportunity to engage MU; he also suggested Wendy Baumann at WWBIC, and broader economics and financial literacy in WI
- Ashley suggested connecting with Hunger Task Force
- Manoj identified Feeding America and his partnership with them

Next Steps

- Attend the SDC Summit on Poverty – October 19-21, 2021
 - Faculty/Staff Presenters at the Summit
 - Robert Smith
 - Theresa Tobin
 - Darren Wheelock
 - Shar’Ron Buie
 - Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio
 - Chris Simenz
 - Kathy Coffey-Guenther
 - Gabe Velez
 - Aleksandra Snowden
 - Noelle Brigden
 - Amber Tucker
 - Marilyn Frenn
 - Dan Bergen
- Dan Bergen will schedule another meeting for the week of October 25
- Spread the word among faculty colleagues
- Invite Lucas Torres to next meeting
- Identify faculty co-leadership for the initiative