

The Provost's Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Diversity and the University of California: Is it Possible?

Professor Patricia Gándara

Research Professor, UCLA Graduate School of Education; Co-Director, The Civil Rights Project at UCLA



Professor Gary Orfield

Distinguished Research Professor, UCLA Graduate School of Education; Co-Director, The Civil Rights Project at UCLA



California is a diverse state that has swung from *progressive* to *reactionary* to *moderate* civil rights policies and law over the last half century—and potentially stands ready to change direction again. Professors Gándara and Orfield will begin their presentation with a description of the politics of race and the ways in which the Civil Rights Movement shaped California's and the nation's response to the call for greater diversity in education, including affirmative action. The two will then review the impact of the elimination of affirmative action in California as part of a broader movement of racial polarization in state and national politics, and also the response of the University of California—focusing on costs and outcomes. Given current conditions faced by California's public schools, Gándara and Orfield will argue that there simply are no realistic alternatives to racially conscious admissions if higher education, and UC in particular, are to meet the social and economic challenges of a state with a non-white majority population. Finally, the professors will discuss a proposal to either overturn or redefine California's current ban on affirmative action.

Lecture:

3 to 4:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room
Student Community
Center

Reception:

4:30 to 5 p.m.
Multipurpose Room
Student Community
Center

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