

# TALKING ABOUT RACISM: A Community Conversation



# ZOOM INFORMATION

- To Ask Questions:
  - **Use Q&A Function**
  - Questions may be grouped and we may not get to all questions
- The presentation portion of the seminar will be recorded.



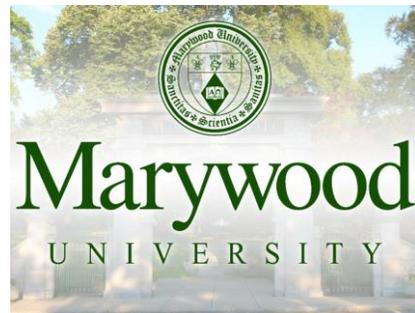
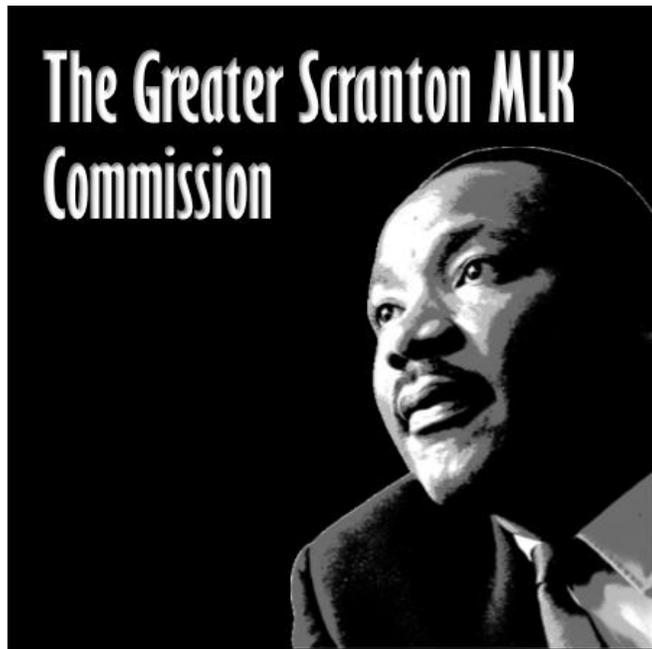
## WHY WE ARE HERE: TO TALK ABOUT RACISM

- Racism is a longstanding problem in our country, including for Black and Brown neighbors here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
- We are here to seize the moment to ensure our region is a welcoming and inclusive community for diverse communities of color.
- Talking about racism is difficult, but with **curiosity, knowledge, and empathy**, we can **listen, learn, and work for change**.
- This series is a **learning journey**: missteps and growth will happen along the way.

# THE GREATER SCRANTON MLK COMMISSION

- OUR MISSION: to promote Dr. King's principles of non-violence, equity, and love through education and service.
- OUR PURPOSE:
  - ❑ To work inclusively with community partners to improve interracial relations everywhere.
  - ❑ To encourage economic and social growth within our minority communities.
  - ❑ To recognize those individuals who have contributed towards the economic and social growth within our minority communities.
  - ❑ To promote principals of non-violence, equality and love.
  - ❑ To tell the stories of the struggles and continued progress.
  - ❑ To provide education and leadership training for adults and youth.

# COLLABORATION: SPONSORS & SPEAKER ORGANIZATIONS



## HOW TO APPROACH TODAY'S CONVERSATION

- Listen with **openness** – not to agree/argue, but to hear/understand
- Listen with **empathy and humility** – imagine what the issue feels like for people with lived experiences different from yours, especially those in communities of color
- Listen with **justice** in mind – even if you have complicated or conflicting positions, think about the issue in terms of “justice” and “reconciliation”
- Extend **grace and mercy**, and **ask questions that lead to greater understanding**

# TODAY'S SESSION: DISCUSSING BLACK LIVES MATTER

- **Session 3: Discussing Black Lives Matter**
  - Moderator: Lia Richards Palmiter, PhD, MLK Commission, Marywood University
  - Presenters:
    - Glynis Johns, Founder, Black Scranton Project
    - Yerodin Lucas, PhD, Interim Director Office of Equity & Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator, Marywood University



## WORKING UNDERSTANDING OF BLM

- #BlackLivesMatter is a global (United States, UK, and Canada) grassroots organization formed in 2013 in response to the current and historical race-based hatred and discrimination of Black bodies throughout the world. Its mission is to dismantle and eradicate the system of white supremacy and address the violence, subjugation, and political strife inflicted on Blacks across the diaspora. In addition, the Black Lives Matter movement seeks to reimagine the local and global Black community, by creating space for imagination, innovation, with a central focus on Black liberation.

# WHY BLM?

- Simply put, Black lives are in danger and have been since the installation of chattel slavery. The very concept of Blackness has been beset with negative connotations for countless generations, and this conception continues to perpetuate the cycle of violence and discrimination we see manifesting throughout the United States.



# BLM IS

- A grassroots organization aimed at uplifting and liberating the Black community locally and globally
- An entity that seeks to create opportunities for advancement, equal rights, and equal treatment of Blacks
- A movement to recreate the concept of Blackness and implement intentional spaces for Black empowerment
- A power-base that operates from a position of collaboration and an unapologetic paradigm that promotes action-oriented steps to support the Black community

# BLM IS NOT

- An organization that incites violence
- An extremist movement
- A movement that excludes other racial groups



## Help Us Fight Disinformation

**We need to see what you see.** Black Lives Matter is a central target of disinformation and you are a key line of defense. Report suspicious sites, stories, ads, social accounts, and posts about BLM.

- Source: [www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com)

# ALLYSHIP WITH BLM

- The Black Lives Matter Movement promotes and encourages allyship from folks who want to be a part of the liberation of the Black community. BLM seeks authentic partnerships from those who desire social change, seek to dismantle systemic injustice, and ultimately see the value, dignity, and equality in all human life.

# QUESTIONS?

