

THIRD ANNUAL

# Ohio Family Engagement — LEADERSHIP SUMMIT —

*Family Engagement that*

# ***BREAKS THROUGH***



Ohio Statewide

**Family Engagement Center**

— at The Ohio State University



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

# **LINKING ARMS ACROSS INSTITUTIONS FOR CHANGE**

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**Erase the Space; Otterbein Truth, Racial Healing, and  
Transformation Team**

# CHALLENGES TO ENGAGING SCHOOLS

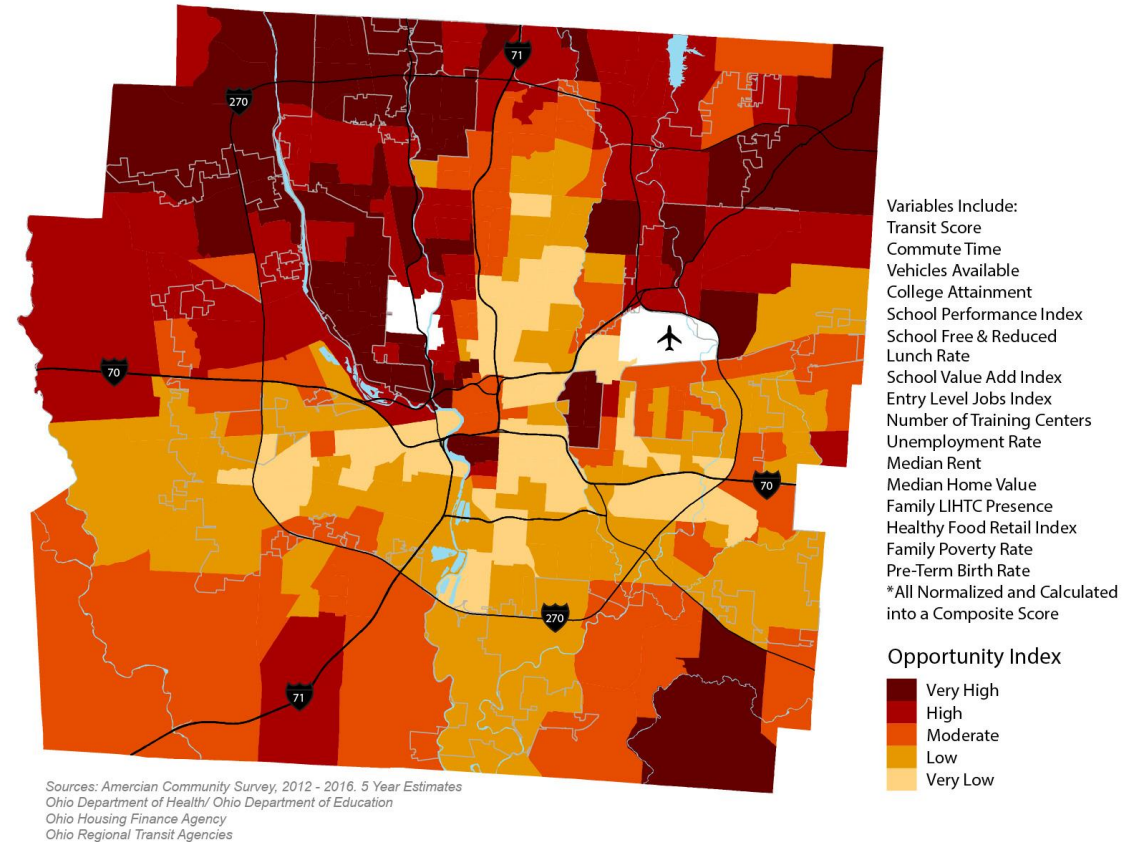
- Schools and teachers are siloed from other sectors
- Schools are segregated
- Schools are unequally funded and operated



# THE KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

- Scholarship for impact
- Engaged research
- Community-Based Participatory Research
- Spatial analysis
- Structural Racialization

Franklin County 2017 Opportunity Index



# ERASE THE SPACE

Erase the Space is a non-profit organization formed by teachers and run by teachers and facilitates a year-long writing exchange between segregated classrooms in order to help repair public discourse. Students write letters and opinion pieces, communicate via social media, and ultimately meet in person.

## Pen Pals

While there is nothing wrong with engaging someone new through letter writing, the classic pen pal paradigm can rely on a few problematic ideas...

- Never in same physical space
- Lends itself to voyeurism
- Transactional
- And then what...so you have a pen pal?

## Erase the Space

Instead of reinforcing how different people are “over there,” we wanted to build a larger community. So...

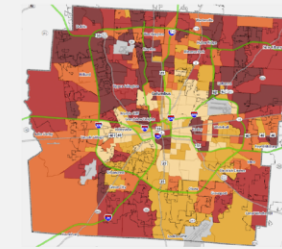
- Common problem
- Equal experts
- Shared “neutral” space
- Not just a show & tell -- we have work to do together!

# OUR TEAM



**ERASE THE SPACE:**  
FROM CIVIL VOYEURISM  
TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
EVALUATION RESULTS

By Glennon Sweeney



# TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING, AND TRANSFORMATION

"TRHT is a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. At its core, TRHT will unearth and jettison the deeply held, and often unconscious, beliefs created by racism – the main one being the belief in a **“hierarchy of human value.”** This belief has fueled racism and conscious and unconscious bias throughout American culture and the perception of inferiority or superiority based on race, physical characteristics or place of origin.“

--W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Otterbein's TRHT Campus Center focuses on:

## **TRUTH**

Expose and reframe narratives of education in Central Ohio

## **RACIAL HEALING**

Create circles of connectedness in Columbus and the surrounding suburbs

## **TRANSFORMATION**

Change policy and practice, specifically mitigating inequality created by the win-win agreement

# OUR APPROACH

- Listen first
- Radical Humility
- Emergent Strategy
  - For example: meetings with no agenda
  - Helps you find boundary objects
- Collaborative not transactive
- Operates from shared values and trust



## HOW THIS APPROACH TRANSLATES TO STUDENT AND TEACHER ENGAGEMENT

- Narrative sharing
  - Letter to an unknown partner
  - Emoji responses
- Shared learning and reflection
  - Aligned lessons
  - Exchange responses
- In-person collaboration and creation
  - What can you think of together?
- Meeting with no agenda
  - Introduce teachers to each other
  - What brought you here?
  - What is your classroom like?
- Intentional planning for aligned lessons/shared learning
  - What do both groups of students need?
  - How does this align with my current work?
- Create the container for student discourse
  - Wade into the tension with students
  - Guide them through
- Get out of the way

# ACTIVITY

## MEETING WITH NO AGENDA

- Split into dyads
- Have a conversation with no agenda with the goal of:
  - Identifying your shared values
  - Identifying a boundary object (issue or idea that you can work on together)
- Start the conversation with sharing your favorite music or food
- During the conversation practice
  - Deep listening (don't think about what you are going to say next)
  - Radical humility
  - Gratitude for what is being shared with you

## TAKEAWAY

- With your partner, discuss the following:
  - Identify who your first contact would be if you were trying to build a relationship with a local school district
    - Derek's was his neighbor, Bill
  - Clarify what you value you can add to a school district collaboration
    - Kirwan had maps that told the story of educational inequality
  - Discuss what would a meeting with no agenda look like with that individual
  - Discuss additional people you and your new partner would reach to whose values align with yours

# THANK YOU!

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THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

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