

# 'Conversations' highlight W-S neighborhood group's summit

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods was the host of the first Cross-Systems Equity Summit on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The summit was designed to bring local institutions, government agencies and community-based organizations together to discuss, plan, strategize and fund efforts to work on social, economic and educational disparities plaguing a number of communities.

Paula McCoy, executive director of Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, said these conversations have to happen to make an impact in neighborhoods of color.

"Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is about asset-based community development but you can't do any work without recognizing what is going on in communities of color, so we have to talk about it."

According to McCoy, the region's slow economic recovery combined with rising inequality and wide racial gaps in income, education and opportunity puts the region's economic future at risk.

Monica Walker, national trainer for the People's Institute for Survival & Beyond, was the guest speaker for the summit, sponsored by the United Way of Forsyth County on Saturday, Oct. 24. During her speech, Walker presented data from a number of universities and professors that showed how race is a determining factor when it comes to social, economic and educational disparities.

The data collected by Walker and others were designed to show that race is always factored into the

structural analysis of systems such as health care and education. Walker believes that to improve the quality of life of the African-American community, the data must be used as part of the solution.

"If race is present in the outcome, a structural analysis of race must be part of the solution," said Walker. "If the program you are designing has not considered a structural analysis, then that is the reason you are getting what you are getting, because you are not asking the question why."

Many of the people who attended the event are members of nonprofit organizations, community development organizations, community leaders and educators.

Dr. Yolanda Edmonds, chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at Winston-Salem State University, said she came to the program to get to know the community better.

"The program I have is a rehab counseling program, so we actually train people to work within the community specifically dealing with disabilities and employment," said Edmonds. "I wanted to get to know the community a little better so when we get ready to work with the students, we know they will be working for the community."

Following Walker's presentation, a number of attendees said, although they had seen the data before seeing the research compiled at an event with people from different backgrounds, really helps to think of solutions to the problems.

"Because I work with data, I've seen that data before, but when she put it all together, that's what

made an impact for me," Edmonds said.

"I already knew a lot of the information but when you start showing it in every area education, employment, healthcare it makes a bigger impact."

The room used for the event was full, but some thought others should have attended because they are most affected by the data presented.

Sisters Tashandra and Marquita Wisley, who are members of the Cleveland Avenue Transformation Team, said they believed more young African-American males should have attended.

"I've been to this before, when they had it in Greensboro. I came today to see what type of people are coming out to get this information," said Tashandra Wisley. "The people who are targeted the most by racial disparities in this country are not here."

"I really enjoyed the speech today, but I just think people have to see the people who are affected by the decisions they are making," said Marquita. "We should be having these same types of conversations in our neighborhoods and communities."

Following Walker's opening address, a number of separate sessions were held on a number of specific topics including: "Faith & Race: Are we a Community of Unity?," "Let's Talk about Education," "The Health of the Health Industry for Communities of Color," "Is Racial Justice Possible in our Justice System," and "Income, Gender and Race: Policy & Poverty."

For more information on Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, visit [www.nbncommunity.org](http://www.nbncommunity.org).



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Members of nonprofit organizations, community development organizations, community leaders and educators listen to Monica Walker during the first Cross-Systems Equity Summit on Saturday, Oct. 24.



## Don't Get the Flu

The flu is a serious illness that can easily be prevented with a flu shot. Everyone older than 6 months should get a flu shot every year!

High Dose vaccine is available for those over 65 yrs.

Starting Oct. 1, flu shots are always free at

Forsyth County Department of Public Health  
799 N. Highland Ave. Winston-Salem, NC  
Clinic 3 Hours

M-W 8:30a-3:45p, Th 9:30a-6:45p, Fr 8:30a-11:45a



**Forsyth County**  
Department of Public Health  
Promoting Health, Improving Lives

For more information about the flu vaccine contact the health department at 336-703-3100 or visit [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov)

## REGIONAL



A Columbia, S.C., resource officer is seen in a classroom before he is seen tossing a student across a classroom floor.

# Video shows S.C. school officer tossing student in classroom

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A South Carolina school district banned a school resource officer pending an investigation after a video surfaced showing him tossing a student across a classroom floor.

The incident apparently captured on a student's cell phone happened at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. School officials and sheriff's deputies are investigating what happened, Richland Two Superintendent Debbie Hamm said. "Pending the outcome of the investigation, the district has directed that the school resource officer not return to any school in the district," Hamm said in a prepared statement.

The video shows a uniformed officer asking a student to rise from a classroom

desk. Another adult is standing nearby. The student stays seated, when the officer wraps a forearm around the child's neck. He tips the attached chair and desk backward until the student spills to the floor. Then the officer tosses the child several feet across the floor to the front of the classroom.

The video shows the officer removing a student who was disruptive and refused to leave class, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott told multiple media outlets.

"The video then shows the student resisting and being arrested by the officer," Lott said.

The images captured an "egregious use of force" against the student, ACLU of South Carolina Executive Director Victoria Middleton said.



# FALL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 14, 2015  
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration Begins at 6:30 a.m.

Corbett Sports Center  
1601 East Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27411



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Group Registration (10+): [destinationaggiepride.eventbrite.com](http://destinationaggiepride.eventbrite.com)  
Contact: 336-334-7946 / [uadmit@ncat.edu](mailto:uadmit@ncat.edu)