History of Differences, Inequality in Higher Education

(to be used by facilitators)

Ashmun Institution (later Lincoln University) in Chester, PA was founded as the first all-black college. During the period immediately following the Civil War, numerous all black colleges were established.

- . Before 1945, nearly 90 percent of all black college students attended historically black colleges. Most Hispanics were enrolled in Catholic colleges.
- . The first black land-grant college was begun in 1872.
- . In 1878 the first off-reservation boarding school for Indians was established in Pennsylvania. The off-reservation boarding school's purpose was to assimilate the Indians to white culture.
- . The land-grant college act requiring that funds for black education be distributed on a "just and equitable basis" served in 1890 to stregthen the "separate but equal" (or Jim Crow) doctrine.
- . In 1910, the University of Puerto Rico began to provide college-level education . Also in 1910, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs organized contracts with local school districts to integrate Indian children with whites and to establish the public school curriculum in Indian government schools.
- . The Julius Rosenwald fund, established in 1917 to provide money to construct black schools, built more than 5,000 school buildings in 883 counties in 15 states (predominantly in the south).
- . The first black was ordered admitted to the University of Maryland Law School by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1936.
- . As a result of a 1938 Supreme Court decision admitting blacks to white law schools when equal eduational schools for blacks were unavailable, states created separate graduate schools for blacks.
- . In 1941 the Julius Rosenwald Fund asked white universities to hire black faculty. The Fund provided university presidents with a list of 200 blacks with Ph.D.s and 300 blacks with M.A.s. No measurable hiring of blacks came about.
- . The enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944 enabled many poor students, including minorities, to attend college.
- . In 1945, the Rosenwald Fund offered to pay the salaries of black faculty hired by white universities.
- . In 1948 two previously-segregated universities admitted blacks to graduate courses. In 1949, the Federal district court ordered the University of Kentucky to enroll blacks in its graduate school. From 1948 through 1952, federal courts ordered that blacks be admitted to graduate school and, when enrolled, that blacks be treated as other students, not segregated with the predominately white graduate school.
- . In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal schools were inherently unequal and violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 1954 school desegregation decision led to the desegregation of public facilities throughout the south.
- . School desegregation proceeded slowly. Many whites resisted violently in the