Locally Engaged

Key local work has included:

- Research to help the United Way and The Columbus Foundation target Columbus neighborhoods for investment.
- Collaboration with a community team in the targeted campus-area Weinland Park neighborhood to improve residents’ health and living conditions.
- Events and community forums such as the screening of the film *Hawo’s Dinner Party*, which brought together Columbus service providers, community organizations, and diverse members of the community in facilitated discussion to build mutual understanding.
- Kirwan staff involvement on many local community boards and advisory groups, including the OSU Extension Community Outreach Center – University District/Weinland Park, United Way of Central Ohio HOME Impact Council, Foundation of the African Diaspora, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and Center of Science and Industry (COSI).
- Active involvement in Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT), a collaboration between The Ohio State University, City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, and the city’s near east side community, working to improve neighborhood conditions.
- Research sponsored by The Columbus Foundation focused on improving the conditions of Black girls in Franklin County.
The Kirwan Institute is known and respected nationally and deeply engaged locally. Staff members value their active citizenship in both The Ohio State University and the Columbus-area communities.

Speakers
In 2010–11, 19 major Ohio State campus programs were hosted or co-sponsored by Kirwan, drawing thousands of people.

Kirwan hosts special presentations by nationally known thought-leaders such as (clockwise): William Julius Wilson, Harvard sociology professor; bell hooks, acclaimed author, feminist, and social activist; Laila Al-Arian, Al Jazeera English writer/producer; and David Roediger, University of Illinois history professor, author, and scholar; and many more.

Internships and Faculty Support
The Kirwan Institute offers internships and graduate research associateships to Ohio State students and provides support for faculty joint hires. Its Affiliated Faculty and Staff program serves as a network to share research interests.

Interns and research fellows have an opportunity to participate in the full range of the Kirwan Institute's social justice work, on topics ranging from eliminating racially oriented structural barriers in communities, to working for international justice, and building a better understanding of unintentionally held “hidden” or implicit racial biases.

Brownbags
Frequent campus-wide brownbag luncheon sessions explore topics related to social justice, which reach across academic disciplines.

Conference
Every two years, the Kirwan Institute offers a three-day Transforming Race conference in downtown Columbus, which draws more than 400 academics, students, and social justice advocates from Ohio State and across the country, to enthusiastic response.

Support for Faculty Authors
Three Ohio State faculty, Michelle Alexander, associate professor of law; Sharon Davies, professor of law; and Hasan Jeffries, associate professor of history, have written nationally acclaimed books while sponsored by the Kirwan Institute.

One University: Building Connections
Through their frequent speaking, teaching, and advisory engagements, Kirwan Institute staff share their knowledge and insights with local leaders, academics, students, social justice advocates, and area residents. Kirwan’s leaders participate in the International Poverty Solutions Collaborative at Ohio State, a team effort by 80 faculty and staff in 14 colleges at Ohio State to identify real-world solutions to poverty.

“Opportunity Mapping” techniques, originated by Kirwan, are taught in seminars nationally, in classrooms at Ohio State, and through practical internships and research fellowships on-site in Kirwan’s offices.

To learn more about the Kirwan Institute’s involvement locally and at Ohio State, go to kirwaninstitute.org/osu.