

Equity in the Food System

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Introduction

- Attorney and proud UF alumnus
- Board Member of Working Food (Gainesville)
- FLFPC member since 2016
- Avid baker
- Focus of today's presentation
 - Begin to center racial equity in the food system through policy

History

- Stolen land
- Stolen labor
 - Economic benefit of \$5.9 and \$14.2 trillion in current dollars
- Policy as a tool of systemic racism
 - Treaties with Indigenous people
 - Homestead Act of 1862
 - Farm Bill

Present Day

- 95% of agricultural producers are White (2017 Ag Census)
- Black agricultural producers account for 1.4% of producers in the U.S.
- The average White household owns 86 times more wealth than its Black counterpart, and 68 times more wealth than its Latino one (Institute for Policy Studies report)

Now What?

- Acknowledgement is the first step to righting wrong
- Policy application
 - Asking the right questions of the right people at the right time

Why?

- Why is this policy the way it is?
- Ex: Black children are less likely to read at their grade level than White children. Why?
- To change any system or structure you have to know how it came to be in the first place by asking “why?”

What?

- What does it mean for a policy to be equitable?
- Does it shift power?

Who?

- Centering equity in policy can't be done without the input of those who don't have power
- Requires intentional, respectful, lengthy relationship building
- Building a new system requires time

How?

- So many ways
- Challenge to us to do internal work to make sure FLFPC and the orgs that we represent are anti-racist

Resources

- Books

- Lies My Teacher Told Me, James W. Loewen
- An Indigenous People's History of the United States, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi
- White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, Robin DiAngelo

Resources

- Trainings
 - Racial Justice Training, Race Forward
 - Uprooting Racism in the Food System, Soul Fire Farm
 - DIA: Building Equitable and Inclusive Organizations, Equity At Work

Resources

- Food justice and policy examples
 - Platform for Real Food, HEAL Food Alliance
 - Food Sovereignty Action Steps, Soul Fire Farm
 - New Roots, Lexington, KY
 - Farmworker Association of Florida
 - Agricultural Justice Project
 - Coalition of Immokalee Workers

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