



The Institute on Race and Justice brings together experts from Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice, School of Law, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of African American Studies, and School of Education to examine questions on race and justice facing urban communities. Through the leadership of the Institute's Steering Committee, the Institute works on projects toward the goal of conducting nationally recognized research and providing leadership on race and justice issues.

The mission of the Institute is to utilize strategic social science research methodologies to assist government agencies, educational institutions, and community stakeholders in the development of policy changes to advance the cause of social justice. The Institute was founded on the premise that academic institutions can work with communities to provide rigorous and objective information that can be used to influence policy changes that advance the cause of social justice. This research model attempts to enhance scientific inquiries with the input and experiences of community stakeholders who struggle with issues of racial injustice. The coupling of community practitioners and social scientists allows practitioners access to academic input while providing academics with more current and salient ideas about and data on issues in the field.

As part of this combination of traditional empirical questions and community-based problem solving, the Institute has brought together members from the community to form an advisory board. The Community Advisory Board provides for close partnerships between community members and organizations. IRJ can then become directly aware of the community's needs, which helps guide the Institute's research focus.

The Institute was established through a generous start-up grant from the University in August 2001. Its accomplishments would not be possible without the support of President Richard Freeland, Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Dean Jack Greene (College of Criminal Justice), Dean Emily Spieler (School of Law), and Dean James Stellar (College of Arts and Sciences).

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