Hidden History: Understanding the Origins of Racial Inequity
Slavery to the Civil War, 1600s to 1860s

TAKEAWAYS for Panel 1

Dr. Clark-Pujara: Takeaways

- **Recognize**: The institution of race-based slavery was national and not regional. The sins and legacies of slavery are not individual, but collective as the profits from slavery built the infrastructure of the nation and set the stage for white privilege socially, politically, and economically.
- **Appreciate**: The history of slavery in the United States is essential to and necessary for a full understanding and appreciation of American History.
- **Know**: Race-based slavery was an artificial system, created for profit, and a central component of American capitalism in the North and the South. There was nothing inevitable or natural about it. Moreover, enslaved people resisted their bondage and fought for their freedom.

Dr. Baumgartner: Takeaways

- **Recognize** that schools have served as a battleground over race for centuries.
- **Appreciate** that historically young African American women, alongside other activists, have pursued a range of protest strategies, from boycotts to lawsuits, in order to abolish racially discriminatory practices in schools.
- **Know** that the matter of educational inequality and inequity remains urgent and unresolved today, and we must continue the work of young Black woman in the past who fought to secure a quality education for all children and youth, regardless of race.

Dr. Wells: Takeaways

- **Recognize** that slave resistance had an impact on the free states’ view of slavery.
- **Appreciate** that blacks in the North were imperiled by the existence of slavery in the South
- **Know** that political, business, and institutional forces in the North tacitly approved the continued pursuit of slaves by sanctioning the kidnapping of Black men and women.
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RESOURCES

For its Martin Luther King Week Celebration Lake Michigan College compiled an extensive list of resources for further exploration. [https://www.lakemichigancollege.edu/community/mlk](https://www.lakemichigancollege.edu/community/mlk)

In addition, our speakers and panelists have offered these additional materials for consideration.

**Additional Suggestions for Articles, Books, and Media**


Prudence Crandall Museum. “Documentary: To All on Equal Terms: The Life & Legacy of Prudence Crandall,” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2GNvBsaT&rs=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2GNvBsaT&rs=3s)


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- The Dig (podcast) Slavery and Capitalism, parts 1 and 2
  [https://www.thedigradio.com/podcast/capitalism-and-slavery-part-1/](https://www.thedigradio.com/podcast/capitalism-and-slavery-part-1/) and
  [https://thedig.blubrry.net/podcast/capitalism-and-slavery-part-2/](https://thedig.blubrry.net/podcast/capitalism-and-slavery-part-2/)


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To become more involved at the local level in Berrien County, if you are interested in joining a Brave Talks group to explore and deepen your understanding of structural racism in a living room-style conversation further, visit [www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/population-health/get-involved/brave-talks](http://www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/population-health/get-involved/brave-talks); or contact us at cgr@spectrumhealth.org.

The Hidden History panels are part of Community Grand Rounds, a discussion series begun in 2018 featuring medical and social science experts talking about how people of color experience poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancies due to policies and practices embedded in our society and our healthcare system. Hidden History is presented by a collaboration among Lake Michigan College and Spectrum Health Lakeland.

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