

## CMF AND DIVERSITY IN PHILANTHROPY PROJECT FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR DIVERSITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

The Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) and the Diversity in Philanthropy Project (DPP) have formed a special partnership to develop new knowledge, tools and support for increasing diversity and inclusive practice among foundations in Michigan and the nation.

This partnership is part of a larger five-year initiative CMF has undertaken called *Transforming Michigan Through Diversity & Inclusion* – funded initially by a \$150,000 grant from **The Kresge Foundation**.

DPP is a three-year, national initiative initiated by Robert K. (Bob) Ross, president and CEO of the California Endowment and other field leaders. It is a voluntary initiative of more than 30 leading foundation trustees, senior staff and philanthropy network executives committed to increasing the diversity of foundation boards, staff and grantmaking through open dialogue and strategic action. Among its supporters are the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** and the **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**.

DPP is led by Director Henry A.J. Ramos and a team of expert consultants including



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Anna-Nanine S. Pond and Jessica Bearman, who are working closely with CMF's partnership leader Vicki Rosenberg, vice president of education, communications & external relations.

"I am excited about our partnership with CMF and the research we will undertake to track and report foundation performance on diversity measures as well as share our

findings on the link between diversity and foundation effectiveness," said Ramos.

CMF President and CEO Robert S. Collier is equally excited about this opportunity.

"In March 2008, Henry and I discussed the partnership with the CEOs of 31 regional associations of grantmakers who, together with CMF, serve more than 4,000 foundations across the U.S.," said Collier.

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"The field seems poised to take action on diversity and inclusion, an issue the CMF Board of Trustees has supported since passing its first resolution in 2002," he added. "And the board and I are ready and eager to work with DPP on the development and testing of tools, resources and models."

The partnership will build on each organization's respective strengths. DPP provides a centralized source of expertise on an unusually broad range of diversity and inclusion issues. CMF provides a strategic setting and commitment to apply that expertise in a state recognized for its innovation and leadership for effective foundation practice.

Over the next 18 months, the CMF-DPP partnership will focus on producing new knowledge and related tools and resources through three primary activities:

- A CEO Focus Group on June 25, 2008 with Mary Ellen Capek, co-author of *Effective Philanthropy through Deep Diversity*

and *Gender Equality*, to engage Michigan leadership on the issue

- Designing and testing processes for identifying and disseminating "gold standard" diversity resources such as articles, consultants, self-assessment tools and other resources
- A Knowledge Symposium in Fall 2008 to identify factors needed to build and sustain a diverse and inclusive foundation

– **Henry A.J. Ramos**

**CMF Chair Diana Sieger**, president of the **Grand Rapids Community Foundation**, and CMF trustee **Carol Goss**, president of **The Skillman Foundation** and chair of CMF's Governance Committee (serving as the advisory committee for the overall five-year initiative) share Collier's and Ramos' enthusiasm.

"Our member foundations recognize the unique and important leadership role CMF plays within the field nationally," said Sieger. "The entire board is behind CMF's work and is grateful to Bob Ross, Henry Ramos and his team for their leadership."

*For more information about the five-year Transforming Michigan Through Diversity and Inclusion initiative, visit the Projects and Collaborations area of [michiganfoundations.org](http://michiganfoundations.org), or contact Vicki Rosenberg at 616.842.7080 or [vrosenberg@michiganfoundations.org](mailto:vrosenberg@michiganfoundations.org).*