Professor William B. Allen

William B. Allen, Ph.D., undertook undergraduate study at Pepperdine College and obtained a Ph.D. in government from the Claremont Graduate School. He was a Fulbright Fellow, completing a dissertation on Montesquieu and the American founding. He has served as a member of the National Council for the Humanities and as member and chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Dr. Allen is a Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University, and is currently a fellow in Princeton's Madison Program. Formerly Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Dr. Allen also previously served as Dean and Professor at James Madison College, MSU and taught at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. Recognized for excellence in liberal education on the 1997 Templeton Honor Roll, he also has been a Kellogg National Fellow and received the international Prix Montesquieu. His pending study, *Re-Thinking Uncle Tom: The Political Philosophy of H. B. Stowe*, should appear in the coming year. He recently published *Habits of Mind: Fostering Access and Excellence in Higher Education* (with Carol M. Allen).

Professor Vidu Soni

Vidu Soni, Ph. D., received a doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University, a master of public administration degree from the University of Missouri, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Rajasthan in India. Specializing in American Government, Public Administration, and Public Policy, she is a Professor of Public Administration at Central Michigan University. Dr. Soni has published and presented papers on many aspects of affirmative action and diversity, particularly as pertaining to the workplace. Her research encompasses a wide range of personnel management topics, with a focus on ethics in corporate settings. In 2004, Dr. Soni was awarded the Michigan Public Service Award in Academia from the Michigan chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. She currently chairs the Human Resources and Labor Relations Section of the American Society of Public Administration and serves as a consultant on human resource matters to numerous organizations.

Toward A Fair Michigan

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: PRO & CON



October 22, 2006
12:30-2:00 pm

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

Grosse Pointe, MI

Affirmative Action: Pro & Con

Program

Moderator:

Bill Rutledge

Debators:

Prof. William B. Allen, Michigan State Univ.

Prof. Vidu Soni, Central Michigan Univ.

Program

Welcome

Debate

Audience Questions & Answers

Closing Remarks

Sponsor

Toward A Fair Michigan: (TAFM) is a Michigan-based non-partisan non-profit educational organization, which aims to further understanding of equal opportunity issues involved in guaranteeing civil rights for all citizens, to preserve Michigan's tradition of progressively affirming civil rights for all, and to provide a forum for a fair and open exchange of views on the question of affirmative action. www.towardafairmichigan.org

We thank Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church for hosting this debate.

Proposal 2 — Ballot Wording

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR CONTRACTING PURPOSES.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

Ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes. Public institutions affected by the proposal include state government, local governments, public colleges and universities, community colleges and school districts.

Prohibit public institutions from discriminating against groups or individuals due to their gender, ethnicity, race, color or national origin. (A separate provision of the state Constitution already prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.)

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes

No

Please complete a program evaluation,

which will be collected at the end of the debate