Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you)!

So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!

**Food**: KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Volunteer to help and we’ll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (cooking duties can be shared with another volunteer).

**Mailing**: We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newsletters, for instance) need many hands to help with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.

**Role-players**: KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from volunteer thespians. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.

**Financial Support**: We are associated with Bethel College, but almost entirely self-funded. Since money does NOT grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Langel, at 316-284-5217 or dlengel@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.

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**We’re on the Web** [www.kipcor.org](http://www.kipcor.org) and on [www.facebook.com/kipcorks](http://www.facebook.com/kipcorks)

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Fall 2019

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Fall Peace Lecturer Jasymn Story Welcomed by Bethel – Sheryl Wilson, Director

KIPCOR’s Fall Peace Lecturer, Jasymn Story, welcomed by Bethel Community

KIPCOR recently began the 2019-20 Peace Lecture Series with by hosting a lecture from restorative justice practitioner and trainer, Jasymn Story. On the evening of November 7th, about 30 people gathered for a supper at KIPCOR prior to the lecture held at Krehbiel Auditorium, where additional community members attended the lecture.

Jasymn Elise Story is an international Restorative Justice Facilitator and founder of The People’s Coalition. Named one of Vice’s 31 Women Making History by Creating a Better Future, they are a dedicated human rights activist with 8 years of experience working in the voluntary sector. Formerly the Director of Restorative Justice Programming at the JAGS Foundation, currently, their main focus is on community mobilization and the integration of restorative practices into the City of Birmingham as the Deputy Director of the Office of Social Justice and Racial Equity. During the supper, Story discussed connections to KIPCOR by recalling the first visit to Bethel College during last year’s Restorative Kansas Conference hosted by KIPCOR. Story, who has a BA degree in Anthropology from Skidmore College and received an MA in Human Rights from University College London, discussed how this background aligns with the interests of KIPCOR and why it is important to support the Institute.

Later, at the lecture, Story used an interactive map of the world to guide the discussion about lessons learned along the way. The lecture, titled “From the Deep South to the World: What Social Justice Can Tell Us Today,” was well-received by lecture attendees.

Story began the lecture by relating an incident of deep personal harm committed by a classmate during college. Story stated:

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Student assistants at KIPCOR

KIPCOR currently has three students helping us out, and we are thrilled with the crew we have now!

Our longest-serving student is Wynter Rentas, Junior Biology major and Basketball player from Wichita, year with us, and Wynter says of KIPCOR, “I like KIPCOR’s community involvement and the support of local people.”

Lindsey Pfannen-steel, Freshman Social Work major from Hays, is also on the staff of the Bethel College and one of the photographers for Thresher Athletics. Lindsey says, “I enjoy KIPCOR’s staff and their ability to go above and beyond for our community.”

David Wulf-Cochrane, from Edmond, OK is a Senior Social Work major, and is on the Football team and sings with the concert choir. David says of his work with KIPCOR, “KIPCOR is tremendous in that they are there for people who feel like they don’t have someone to advocate for them. KIPCOR gives them tools to advocate for themselves and to make the best of their situation.”

If these students are any indication, the future of KIPCOR and Bethel are in great hands. Say hi to them when you see them at KIPCOR or on campus.

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Peace Lecture

"they took my sparkle. Learning how to mediate was my first step in my travels." Story took the audience from Saratoga Springs, NY, to Capetown, South Africa: “in Saratoga Springs, I learned to break down and unpack a story and in Capetown, I learned to tell one. Because when I share my narrative, and when I do it with intent, I have the power to shift your understanding about my position in the world and yours.”

The next day at convocation, Story educated the audience concerning the dangers of cancel-culture. Cancel culture, as described by Story, is “to remove someone because of problematic behavior from your community or to remove their source of income by boycotting where they receive it.”

In this lecture, Story introduced another way to hold others accountable: “if we continue to cancel and remove people, we are going to lose allies and accomplices in our journey toward liberation.” The lecture continued with Story discussing the ways people can enter the recovery process by using restorative justice principles as a guide.

From the Director ~ Sheryl Wilson

Fall 2019 marked a new era for KIPCOR as the newly formed Advisory Council has convened twice since August and their leadership is taking shape in a few key areas: Policy – As we are examining our policies in many areas to continue to provide services that reflect best practices in the conflict resolution field, we are beginning to rely on our Advisory Council for their expertise in these areas.

Fundraising initiatives – Members of the Council have been very helpful in presenting new ideas for fundraising and directing me to new resources. This is largely attributed to the wealth of knowledge and experience in this talented group.

Speaking of fundraising, I am happy to announce that we have been awarded two grants this fall that will help with the efforts of the Community Mediation Center:

IOLTA Grant – The Kansas Bar Foundation (IOLTA) Program is a charitable, non-profit corporation affiliated with the Kansas Bar Association (KBA). The Foundation’s Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) Program was established as a funding source for law-related charitable public service projects and was approved by the Kansas Supreme Court in April 1984. In its petition to the Supreme Court, the Foundation emphasized funding programs which improved the provision of civil legal services to Kansans, provided law-related education, improved the administration of justice, and other programs as approved by the Court. The primary funding was envisioned as providing additional services to low-income Kansans. KIPCOR received a $2,500 grant that will be used to support our indigent clients who may have difficulties affording our services.

Schowalter Grant – The Schowalter Foundation funds Mennonite colleges and seminaries to support international and ministerial students, and is interested in projects that need seed money grants for start-up costs related to new programs which have broad application. KIPCOR received $5,000 to launch an eldercare mediation pilot program.

Donating to KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and REALLY SECURE.

STEP 1: Go to the KIPCOR website at www.kipc.org.

STEP 2: Click on “Get Involved” in the ribbon at the top, and then on “Donate/Volunteer”

STEP 3: Read the information on the Donate page; pay particular attention to “Donation Instructions”

STEP 4: Click on the “Donate Online Today!” button.

STEP 5: Fill out all of the information required. Don’t forget to change the “Designation” box on the first page of the form from “Bethel College Fund” to “Other” and then put KIPCOR in the new box.

STEP 6: (Optional) If it’s not too much trouble, let Doug (dengel@bethelks.edu or 316-284-5217) or Sheryl (swilson@bethelks.edu) in the KIPCOR office know that you’ve made an online donation so we can watch for the receipt from the development office, and give you a proper THANK YOU!!

2019-2020 Film Series

KIPCOR Film Series

KIPCOR is in the midst of another Film Series that continues to draw crowds to the Bethel College campus for award-winning, independent films and discussions led by topic experts.

A new decade begins…..

KIPCOR’s 2019-2020 Film Series will continue on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium with a screening of The Great White Hoax.

Perfectly timed to coincide with the start of the presidential primary season, this film explores the ways politicians from our two major parties often tap into white anxiety and scapegoat people of color to benefit themselves politically. While the film does focus on Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, it also widens its lens to illustrate how Trump’s rhetoric about minorities and immigrants fits within longstanding, historical patterns. The Great White Hoax features prominent anti-racist educator Tim Wise, the author of books such as White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son.

Following the screening of The Great White Hoax, KIPCOR will once again have a topical expert on hand to answer your questions and address your comments.

The final screening of the 2019-2020 Film Series will be held on SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 AT 2:00 p.m. (note the earlier start time) in Krehbiel Auditorium. We have not yet selected a film for this screening, so be sure to let us know if you have any suggestions.

A decade passes…..

KIPCOR kicked start the 2019-2020 Film Series with a screening of Lost Angels: Skid Row is My Home in September. The film also served as the kickoff to a series of events marking the nationwide Campaign Nonviolence Week of Action with a local theme of “Widening the Lens of Nonviolence.”

Lost Angels examined the causes of homelessness in America, and the ways we criminalize the homeless, through the eyes of eight individuals making a life for themselves on the streets of Los Angeles. James Wilson of Newton’s New Hope Shelter, and Nate Schiowitz of the Wichita Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team, led the post-film discussion to provide a local perspective on the homeless population and steps being taken to address their particular needs.

November featured a screening of Dawnland, a film about the very first U.S. government-sponsored Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Commission members worked in the State of Maine to investigate the forcible-removal of Native American children from their homes and subsequent placement with white families. This tragic practice was commonplace in many parts of the country in the 20th century. After the screening of the Emmy Award winning film, Dan Wildcat of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence offered thoughtful comments and responded to audience questions and comments. Dan is a Professor of Indigenous and American Indian Studies at Haskell, and a former collaborator on a KIPCOR Consensus Council project a few years back.

Give us your thoughts

If you have suggestions for specific films or film topics for future screenings, we’d love to hear them! Call Dan at (316) 284-5829, or email him at mswann@bethelks.edu.

Detective C. M. "Bucky" Steelman (Dan Stevens) | The Great White Hoax

See you at the Movies!

Unless otherwise noted, all films are shown at 3:00 PM in Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center. Each film is followed by a 20-30 minute Q&A/Discussion period.
KIPCOR Calendar
More information & registration is available at www.kipcor.org/Calendar/

July 12, 2020
Summer Institute: Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

June 22, 2020 (and additional meeting dates)
Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

June 24-26, 2020
Domestic Mediation
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

September 21, 2020 (and additional meeting dates)
Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

December 4, 2020
KIPCOR Shorts
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.
North Newton KS 67117

Additionally, KIPCOR and the Community Mediation Center offer two classes for divorcing parents each month. We offer the Divorce Impact Education class the second Thursday of the month at 5:15 PM in McPherson, and we offer the same class the fourth Tuesday of the month, also at 5:15 PM, in North Newton.

Contact the Community Mediation Center at (316) 284-5829 or CMC@bethelks.edu for more information on these classes.

KIPCOR also offers classes in Restorative Schools throughout the year. Contact Director Sheryl Wilson at swilson@bethelks.edu or (316) 284-5881 for more information on Restorative Schools.

KIPCOR has made the transition to an electronic newsletter. If we have your email address, we sent you your newsletter to you electronically instead of through the mail. This action saves resources, as we stop using so much paper and energy to print the newsletter, and saves money as we avoid printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter in the mail, contact the office at KIPCOR@bethelks.edu or call us at (316) 284-5217. And remember, you can follow our activities on Facebook at Facebook.com/KIPCORks.

This year, we decided to try something new for our annual CME/CEU Shorts Day in December. Since I joined the staff in 2016, I found the style of our CME/CEU Shorts Day a curious reality. At KIPCOR, we pride ourselves on excellent pedagogical practices including participant-centered learning, elicitive facilitation, and hands-on skills development. In contrast, our annual continuing education day had the look of generic conferences offered elsewhere, just with the slightly homely yet high quality touch of KIPCOR.

While there are good reasons for a series of informative presentations as part of a continuing education day, I wanted to experiment with something that felt more aligned with our knowledge of learner-centered design. Thankfully, a prior year’s participant feedback form gave me the inspiration as they asked “Ever considered an Un-Conference?” So I went to the drawing board. I’m also passionate about the importance of reflective practice. We need time as conflict practitioners to reflect on our work – Why do we do what we do?

What are our goals? How can we improve our practice? What lessons do our elders in the field have to offer? What insights do our newcomers challenge us with? How can we build resiliency for engaging in inherently challenging work?

These were the primary motivations for the design of this year’s KIPCOR Shorts.” The day included practitioner circles engaging in reflective practice, short lesson-driven TED-style talks by elders in our field, a participant-driven Open Space design in the afternoon, and still including time for engaging with new rules approved by the state which impact our practice. While state training restrictions may limit a design like this in the future, I enjoyed stretching our creative wings and experimenting in a bit more KIPCOR-esque style of training this year. Who knows what next year – the 20th year (in 2020) of CME/CEU Shorts – may bring!
Getting to Know KIPCOR: Sharon Kniss

Sharon Kniss, Continued

As the city's primary mediation and restorative justice provider, our branch is dedicated to supporting community groups in finding meaningful solutions to conflicts. In line with our commitment to fostering inclusive communities, we at KIPCOR have been proud to support local organizations as a part of our broader mission. Our five core strengths—mediation, facilitation, training, technical assistance, and consultation—serve as our foundation for achieving this goal.

Our Work

Beginning with the goals established by the Greater Kansas City Mediation Coalition, our branch has been working tirelessly to build community capacity and provide opportunities for conflict transformation. While our primary clients have been with us since 2016, she's somehow managed to wear many hats, from Director of Education and Training, to an educator at the Kansas Board of Regents and a facilitator at the Kansas Mediation Association.

Impact on the Community

As the largest provider of mediation services in Greater Kansas City, we have served over 2,500 participants and assisted in over 1,500 successful mediations. In addition to the impact made on community members, KIPCOR has also been a vital resource for organizations looking to improve their conflict resolution capabilities.

Future Directions

With the recent acquisition of the Highway 61 Project, our branch is poised to continue expanding its reach and impact. As we enter into this next phase of growth, we are excited to continue building partnerships and exploring new ways to support our clients.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to create a more just and equitable society for all.

New KIPCOR T-Shirts available!

We have KIPCOR T-shirts available for purchase—all are the softest, most comfortable T-shirts you have ever worn. They are a nice heather blue color, and have the KIPCOR logo on the front and a peace quote from Desmond Tutu on the back. We have a limited supply, and they are available, until they sell out, for $25 each. Every purchase helps support the work of KIPCOR.

To make a purchase, come by the office at 255 College Avenue in North Newton or call Doug at (316) 547–2700. We can ship them to you, but we will have to charge a small shipping fee to do so.

Sharon Kniss

Top Tips for Exploring Kansas

Following a year spent exploring the state pretty extensively, here would be my top tips for a new Kansan?

1. Get to know KIPCOR: Sharon Kniss

2. Explore the different regions in the state.

3. Stay connected with each other so that we can support one another.

4. Increase the chances for success and fidelity in our mediation work.

5. Support the work of KIPCOR with a donation.

Thank you for your partnership with KIPCOR in all that has been accomplished. We have tried our best to be a part of our community, but we have also had to overcome some obstacles. If you find an error in our list, please let us know so that we can correct our mistakes. We want to recognize all of you for your generous support of our important work.

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