“Educational Equity: From the ‘Kalamazoo Case’ to the ‘Kalamazoo Promise’ and Beyond”

6 p.m. Monday, April 2
204 Bernhard Center, WMU

Co-Moderators:
Kathy Purnell, instructor, Department of Political Science, WMU
Ashley Atkins, assistant professor, Department of Philosophy, WMU

Panelists:
Michael Evans, executive director, Kalamazoo Literacy Council
Cyekeia Lee, director of community collaboration, Kalamazoo Promise
James D. Robb, general counsel and associate dean of external affairs, WMU Cooley Law School
Sandra Standish, executive director, KC Ready 4s

This panel examines the evolution of the Kalamazoo region's commitment to educational equity. Our panelists will engage the audience in a broad discussion of our "past" all the way to our “present.” The past includes the "Kalamazoo Case" authored by Thomas M. Cooley in his role as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court; the case stood for the principle that communities can opt to use their tax dollars for investments in secondary education. The present includes the Kalamazoo Promise and our commitment to post-secondary education. The panel will also discuss potential future paths, contemplating what it may mean to embrace a "Right to Literacy" and an expanded commitment to Pre-K youth to ensure educational equity and access. Panelists will share their thoughts on what a commitment to educational equity means and engage in a dialogue on how to map our common future to expand equity and access.

Co-Sponsors: College of Education and Human Development, WMU Cooley Law School

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