



**American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics**  
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## Aerospace History News

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[www.aiaahouston.org/history\\_technical\\_committee/#news](http://www.aiaahouston.org/history_technical_committee/#news)  
AIAA Houston Section History technical committee

### Affirmative Diversity: Goals & Timetables

[Douglas Yazell, AIAA Houston Section History technical committee Chair]

At the national level, I joined a recently created AIAA Diversity Working Group. This news article is my first in my series (*Affirmative Diversity: Goals & Timetables*) on this history technical committee web page. My interest includes my one-page article on the subject of diversity on page 16 of the May / June 2005 issue of Horizons, the newsletter of our Section. My other related interests include Ian Haney-López, author of the 2014 book *Dog Whistle Politics*. When I heard him say in 2014 that race (our racial divide) was our biggest problem in the USA, I was surprised, but he convinced me. (He appeared on the PBS television show *Moyers & Company*.)

A friend recommended the work of Tim Wise to me after she heard him talk to a large Florida audience (about 200 people) about anti-racism. I bought the two audiobooks available among the 7 books written by Tim Wise so far. He wrote a liner note for the 2014 book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. I also bought that audiobook. In the book *Dear White America, Letter to a New Minority*, Tim Wise recommends the 1993 book *Anti-Racism in U.S. History: The First Two Hundred Years*, by Herbert Aptheker.

Since 1984, France has SOS Racisme. World Cup soccer (FIFA World Cup) has its *No To Racism* campaign. I enjoyed the similar EURO 2016 soccer tournament on television in France and its campaign, *No To Racism: Respect*. France defeated Germany in a semi-final game, but Portugal won the final game.

I read *The Fire Next Time*, the 1963 book by James Baldwin. I discovered Ta-Nehisi Coates (an author and editor) when he talked about anti-racism on the PBS television show *Moyers & Company*.

I admire the anti-racism work of Tavis Smiley and Dr. Cornel West. Dr. West wrote the introduction to the excellent 2010 book The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander. It was good to see Dr. West in the 2016 four-hour PBS television program Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise, whose author and on-camera host is Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

A 2-minute 2016 YouTube video from The Guardian says it is not enough to be non-racist; we must be anti-racist.

Another excellent 2016 book is White Rage, The Unspoken Truth About our Racial Divide, by Carol Anderson, PhD, of Emory University.

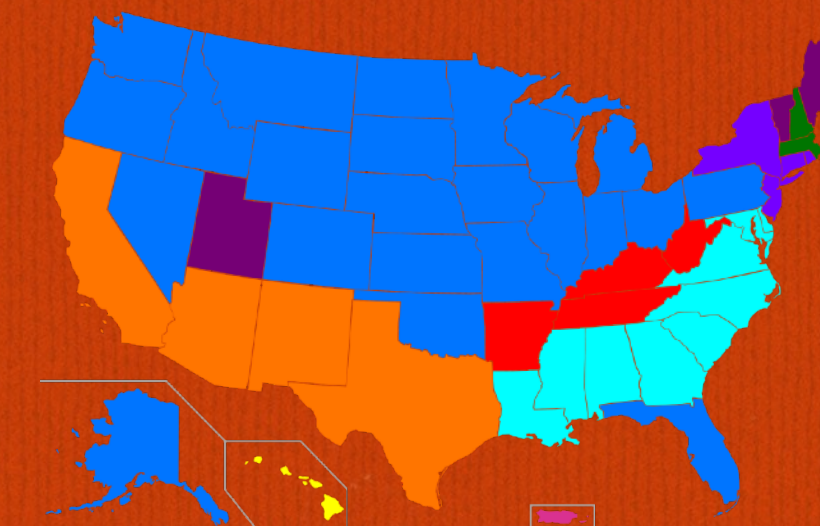
#### Connections to our Section Territory including Potential Speakers for our Events

The Pursuit of Fairness, A History of Affirmative Action, is a 2004 book by Terry Anderson, a professor of history at Texas A&M University (in our Section territory). The title of the last chapter, the 6th chapter, is *Demise of Affirmative Action in the Age of Diversity*. In a 6-minute YouTube video, he says other books on this subject are polemics, so he saw a need for his book. He also says in that video that despite complaints, quotas never existed, but goals and timetables existed.

Dr. Robert Bullard of TSU (Texas Southern University) in Houston was a featured guest for the Climate Reality Project during their training in Houston in August of 2016. TSU is an HBCU, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the USA.

I have the audiobook The Counter-Revolution of 1776. The author is Gerald Horne, professor of history at the University of Houston. His recent appearance on Democracy Now was excellent. He talked about *The Counter-Revolution of 1776* on Democracy Now in a 2014 appearance.

How Racism Takes Place by George Lipsitz (Assistant Professor of History, University of Houston at Clear Lake, 1979-1981, 1982-1985) is a great 2011 book, and its chapter 6 is about Houston Texas USA (*John Biggers and Project Row Houses*). Chapter 6 starts with the story of the late Carl Hampton.



Above: Ancestry with largest population in each state.

#### Links:

Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Houston Area  
National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

[Update, June 27, 2017]

A different map of the above subject is presented in the Population subsection of the Demographics section of the Wikipedia United States article. Here is a link to that map.

### A White Racist Event at Texas A&M University Overcome by School Leaders

"America Belongs to White Men," Alt-Right Founder Says

[The Intercept, December 7, 2016, Robert Mackey]

### Our December 2016 Section Dinner Meeting

#### Achieving Mission Success with Underrepresented Disciplines in Aerospace

AIAA Houston Section invites you attend a panel dinner event, featuring underrepresented disciplines in the Aerospace sector. Although STEM careers are well recognized to participate in the aerospace field, with engineering being the most popular; we must acknowledge that there are other disciplines that contribute to the success of aerospace missions and projects. This panel will highlight many of those disciplines and ways to collaborate better in a more innovative and inclusive environment that we have as a diverse aerospace workforce.

Everyone is invited to attend, having young professionals as the target audience to help with retention and motivation for underrepresented disciplines to feel welcome and rewarded for their contributions to the aerospace field; and to bridge the gap between the majority (engineering and other STEM fields) and minority disciplines early in their careers, paving a more collaborative environment in their current and future careers.

#### Panelists:

1. Architecture: Kriss Kennedy, Space Architect, NASA Human Health and Performance
2. Psychology: Katie Vasser, Human Factors Engineer, MEI Technologies
3. Law: Michele Collins, Attorney-Advisor, NASA Legal Office
4. Education: Alicia Baturoni Cortez, NCAS Program Manager, Oklahoma State University
5. Journalism/Public Relations: Hayley Fick, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs & Communications

Moderator: Jackelynne Silva-Martinez, NASA Johnson Space Center, Flight Operations Directorate