



**Learning and Reflection Forum**  
**March 24, 2017 2:00- 3:30 pm Eastern**

## **Leading in Communities with Deep Historical Wounds**

### **Forum Description**

Historically, there are many cultural communities that have been disenfranchised, marginalized, and experienced discrimination. This has in the past and continues to affect specific racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic communities in the United States, its territories and tribal nations. Disability, LGBTQ, and immigrant communities have also been affected. Engaging communities that have experienced historical trauma can be daunting. Historical trauma is defined as “cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across generations, including lifespan, which emanates from massive group trauma.”<sup>i</sup> Those attempting to lead efforts that engage these communities are often challenged by reticence, lack of trust, and lived experiences (past and current) of many community members. This forum will explore: (a) historical trauma from the perspective of African American, American Indian, and Muslim communities in the United States; and (b) what leaders can do to acknowledge these injustices and forge relationships that foster mutual respect, understanding, and healing.

### **Forum Objectives**

Participants will:

1. Identify and describe the historical and present trauma experienced by members of diverse racial, ethnic, disability, religious, and LGBTQ communities.
2. Cite approaches to engage communities that have experienced historical trauma.
3. Describe five culturally and linguistically competent approaches to engage communities affected by historical trauma.
4. Reflect on what it takes to lead in challenging circumstances resulting from historical trauma and community wounds.

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<sup>i</sup> Brave Heart, M.Y.H., & DeBruyn, L.M. (1998). The American Indian holocaust: Healing historical unresolved grief. *American Indian and Alaskan Native Mental Health Research*, 8(2), 60-82.