

Emile Loza de Siles, J.D. – Faculty Winner from the School of Law

Algorithmically Unjust Housing in Allegheny County: Systematized Racism in Housing Artificial Intelligence Systems & Empowering Future Lawyers to Dismantle It

Project Summary:

The project will identify and evaluate the racial equity impacts of Allegheny County's use of artificial intelligence systems (AI) in carrying out its housing policies. Public AI use is increasingly widespread, but often opaque with inadequate governance and limited public understanding. Due to racial and other discriminatory biases and proxies long "baked" into the input data, the use of housing AI is widely reported as systematizing racial inequities and disparately impacting people of color, the poor, the disabled, and other historically disadvantaged communities. Although Allegheny County is ethnically and culturally diverse, it continues to exhibit racial segregation and social inequities caused by the racist legacy of redlining; white flight; gentrification; and other housing policies.

In addition to benefiting the community and advancing racial equity in housing and more broadly, this project will enhance our law students' cultural and technological competencies, professional ethics, and strengthen capacities for their future service toward racial and social justice.

Cassie DiBenedetti – Student Winner from McAnulty College of Liberal Arts with faculty partner, Dr. Emad Mirmotahari

The Asian-American Experience: A Struggle for Racial Equity and Representation in Higher Education

Project Summary:

The intersection of the COVID pandemic and the murder of George Floyd has profound implications for the Asian-American community. This grant will help to address several interrelated issues that affect the Asian-American community, starting with its general omission from conversations about racial justice in the US. More precisely, we are interested in how these topics impact college-age Asian-Americans and aim to create a sustained resource that addresses

the Asian-American experience for the Duquesne community. We plan to develop two events that will address:

- The psychological and social consequences of the "model minority" myth for Asian-Americans.
- The impact of this myth on Asian-American youth.
- How Asian-Americans relate to Black Lives Matter, the black/white paradigm, and other minority-marginalized groups.
- How these relationships shape the Asian-American struggle for justice and equity.
- Why Asian-Americans are perceived as a homogenous ethno-racial group.