



Deconstructing Race Project Receives Grant from Asian Women Giving Circle

For Release
September 2014

The Calhoun School, in collaboration with Point Made Films, is proud to be one of the recipients of this year's Asian Women Giving Circle grants--a donor-advised fund of the Ms. Foundation for Women.

The grant will support the production of a short film by Point Made's executive producer Barb Lee, titled "Asian Kids Don't Count." The video, the second in a series of 13 educational shorts on racism aimed at teens, will be accompanied by a toolkit of materials for teachers and teens that explore macro issues of racism—such as bigotry, privilege and stereotyping, including the model minority myth and derogatory depictions of Asians in the media. The first video short in the series, titled "I Wish I Were Black," was completed earlier this spring.

The series of educational shorts will be used to complement the documentary feature film, *I'm Not Racist...Am I?*, which was completed last spring and is at the center of the Deconstructing Race project. The film follows a diverse group of public and private school teens through a yearlong exploration of race and racism.

Viewings with facilitated workshops of the feature film begin this fall at a number of schools across the country, accompanied by the film's director Catherine Wigginton Greene and producer André Robert Lee.

About the Deconstructing Race Project

Deconstructing Race is planned as a three-part youth-based project including the documentary film, curriculum for students in kindergarten through twelfth grades, and an interactive website for students, teachers and parents.

"When we talk about racism in this country, the conversation lingers in the realm of individual bias and prejudice; we all proudly claim, "I'm not racist."

But, somehow, we still have racism," observes Catherine. "The teens in this film chose to look deeper. By watching the painful, awkward, uncomfortable--and sometimes even fun--process they went through, we get an opportunity to learn and do more ourselves."

Point Made Film's three films before *I'm Not Racist-Am I?* include *Adopted*, an investigation into the unforeseen complications of transracial adoption; *The Prep School Negro*, a poignant film that examines the experiences of African American scholarship students at the nation's most elite schools; and *In 500 Words or Less*, which explores the college application process through the eyes of high schoolers. (*The Prep School Negro* had its national PBS premiere in February 2014.)

Deconstructing Race has received numerous endorsements from organizations, educators and scholars who strongly support the project, including Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and the National Association of Independent Schools.

Founded in 1896, Calhoun is a co-educational, independent school for students in pre-school through grade twelve on Manhattan's Upper West Side. As a leader in progressive education, the school's mission is heavily invested in issues of diversity, social justice and community involvement.

To schedule a facilitated workshop and viewing, please contact:

Lenny Walker: lenny@pointmade.com

Follow the progress of the film on social media:

Deconstructing Race Website: www.calhoun.org/dr

Film Website: www.notracistmovie.com

I'm Not Racist Movie Trailer: <http://www.notracistmovie.com/about/trailer/>

Twitter: @notracistmovie

For more information:

David Alpert, DR Project Director
david.alpert@calhoun.org; 646-666-6353

Beth Krieger, The Calhoun School Director of Communications
beth.krieger@calhoun.org, 212-497-6527