



WISER

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR
SCIENCE, EQUITY AND RACE

Partners & Funders Over the Years:

- Amazon Science
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- Public Welfare Foundation
- Share Our Strength
- Tara Health Foundation

10th Anniversary Celebration

03.7.2026 | 11:00 AM - 02.30 PM

M.C. **Janice Johnson Dias, Ph.D.**, GrassROOTS Community Foundation & Associate Prof. of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

10:45 – 10:55 AM: Registration

11:00 AM: Welcome

Jevay Grooms, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics,
Howard University & Co-Director, The Center for Equitable
Economy & Sustainable Society at Howard University

11:05 – 11:55 AM: Wiser Together: The Power of Partnership

Moderator: **Rhonda V. Sharpe, Ph.D.**, President, WISER

Panelists: **Alisha Gordon**, Narrative Strategy and Learning Lead,
Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities
Lillian Singh, SVP of Family Economic Opportunity,
Share Our Strength
Omari Swinton, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Howard University

12:00 PM: Blessing of the Food

Carol Lautier, Ph.D., Director of Movement Building, Demos

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 – 1:55 PM: Building a Wiser Generation

Moderator: **Cecilia A. Conrad, Ph.D.**, CEO, Lever for Change

Panelists: **Elicia Cowins, Ph.D.**, WISER Board Chair
Lily Johnson, Research Assistant, WISER
Rhonda V. Sharpe, Ph.D., President, WISER

2:00 – 2:15 PM: We Were Wise to Say Yes

Moderator: **Matilda L. Young, Pharm.D.**, Pharmacist,
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Panelists: **Rebecca Dixon, J.D.**, President and CEO,
National Employment Law Project
Demetria Howard-Watkins, J.D.,
The Law Office of Demetria C. Howard, PLLC
Tamara Jeffries, Narrative Director

2:15 PM: Ten Years. Three Words. Many Thank Yous

Rhonda V. Sharpe, Ph.D., President, WISER

2:30 PM: Cheers!

We thank The Center for Equitable Economy & Sustainable Society at Howard University for their financial support of this event.



WISER

**Women's Institute For
Science, Equity and Race**

OUR MISSION:

Our goal is to disseminate research that influences public policy and promotes:

1. Equitable access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education;
2. Equitable access to health care, employment, housing and legal representation,
3. Equity in;
 - a) employment - earnings, compensation and promotion;
 - b) family structure - parental rights and marital status;
 - c) health outcomes - reproductive rights, mental health, health coverage, and family care;
 - d) penal punishment.

Who We Are

Founded on International Woman's Day 2016, the Women's Institute for Science, Equity and Race (WISER) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)3 research institute. WISER's mission is to expand women-focused policy research to include the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous American and Multiracial women.

WISER believes a microanalysis approach, the disaggregation of data by race, ethnicity and gender will draw different conclusions for each group as opposed to the broad umbrella of "women of color". Using the term women of color assumes that Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous American and Multiracial women are a homogenous group and produces ineffective policies that do not address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Our Vision

A society where policy research addresses the economic, social, cultural, and political well-being of Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous American, and Multiracial women.

"I founded WISER because I wanted to read reports and see myself in the data. My goal is to shift the narrative about women of color from deficit based to inclusive conversations, because inclusive conversations lead to better public policy."
Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe, President