GOLDFARB FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SYMPOSIUM

Would you like to win up to $2,000—and stimulate policy debate at the same time? Are you passionate about wealth inequality?

Present your entry at the Goldfarb Freedom of Expression Symposium! The symposium is designed to promote an open exchange of innovative policy ideas; this year our topic is Racial Wealth Inequality. The wealth gap between the *haves* and the *have-nots* is at an all-time high, and the disparity is even larger between white Americans and racial/ethnic minorities.

“The median Black family, with just over $3,500, owns just 2 percent of the wealth of the nearly $147,000 the median White family owns. The median Latino family, with just over $6,500, owns just 4 percent of the wealth of the median White family. Put differently, the median White family has 41 times more wealth than the median Black family and 22 times more wealth than the median Latino family.”—INEQUALITY.ORG

Either individually or in groups of 2-3, students will submit 1-2-page policy briefs by **April 2nd at 9 am**, outlining the solution to a key element of the issue of racial wealth inequality. For greater details on the requirements, please see the “Policy Brief Requirements” listed on the following page. Six semi-finalists will be chosen from the submissions by a panel of judges; these proposals will win $300. The selected briefs will be reformatted as posters and will be put up for public display on Monday, April 13th in the Diamond Atrium. A panel of judges will select three finalists. These finalists will win an additional $300 and will then present their proposals on Thursday, April 16th before a panel of judges and a live audience in Parker-Reed. The judges will select a winner, who will receive an additional $1400, and a runner-up, who will receive $400.

In addition to the panel of judges, we will have a student-choice award. Students will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite poster by participating in a poll on the Goldfarb Center Instagram page (@goldfarbcenter.) The poll will be open from Monday, April 13th at 7 pm through Wednesday, April 15th at 7 pm. The winner of this award will receive an additional $500.

Although the prompt is open-ended, policy proposals should focus on one key element of the issue of racial wealth inequality to outline in your policy brief. Submissions of 1-2 page policy
briefs received by the Goldfarb Assistant Director, Sherry Berard at saberard@colby.edu by 9 am on April 2nd will be considered.

In the next few weeks, two talks will focus on wealth inequality; these talks will likely guide you in writing your policy briefs. To stay up-to-date on upcoming Goldfarb events, visit https://www.colby.edu/goldfarb/. Also on our website are all previous talks hosted this year by the Goldfarb Center under the theme of inequality.
Policy Brief Requirements

Specification of a key element of the problem and summary of the problem’s scope/magnitude
1. Clear statement of the problem of racial wealth inequality and why it is important to address
2. Discussion of who is most greatly impacted by this problem, how and why
3. Discussion of any current policies that exist and are meant to address this problem and why you think they are not working.

Description of the policy and its key components
1. Brief summary of the policy: What will it do? How will it be implemented (i.e. who is the target population, etc.)
2. Justification of the policy solution: Why do you think it will work? What is the evidence?

Identification of policy strengths and weaknesses
1. Clearly identify the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal
2. Address the following: What does the proposal do well, but also what are the limits? For example, which aspects of the racial wealth gap are not being addressed in the proposal?

Structure
1. Well-organized presentation, effective title, headings, concise language
2. Appropriate grammar, spelling, and use of citations

Visualizations
1. The policy brief should incorporate visual elements (i.e. images, tables, figures, etc.)
2. These can be original visualizations created by the student(s) or pulled from outside sources (need to be referenced)
3. The purpose of the visualization(s) is to enhance the argument and provide additional evidence to support the policy proposal

Organization/Structure/Evidence
1. The proposal is well organized, so the reader can identify the key components of the proposal described above
2. The policy brief is well written, so that arguments are clear
3. The policy brief uses reliable sources when describing the problem and in supporting their policy proposal