Institute on Community Transformation

May 27–30, 2026 | Salt Lake City, Utah
June 16–18, 2026 | Online



Overview of the Framework





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AAC&U

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Speaker Introductions
- Session Outcomes & Framing
- National Context: Why This Framework, Why Now
- Ethos of the Framework: How and Why It Matters
- Institutional Integration: Applying the Framework for Transformation, Austin Community College
- Interactive Activity: Your Institutional Lens
- Open Dialogue: Q & A

Session Goals

Ground attendees in the historical and structural realities of the framework

Introduce/Re-introduce foundational pillars to form collaborative coalitions

Create space for courageous reflection and practical creativity

Demonstrate actionable ways the framework can be integrated

Reframe the Racial and Community Healing Framework as a nonpartisan, human-centered model

History of TRHT



Dr. Gail C. Christopher D.N., N.D
Executive Director, National Collaborative for Health

TRHT ENTERPRISE:

- Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation™ (TRHT) is a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. Began with 14 community-based places

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

- The American Association of Colleges & Universities serves as the national manager of the TRHT Campus Centers with efforts to partner with higher education institutions to develop at least 150 self-sustaining community integrated centers.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS host CAMPUS CENTERS:

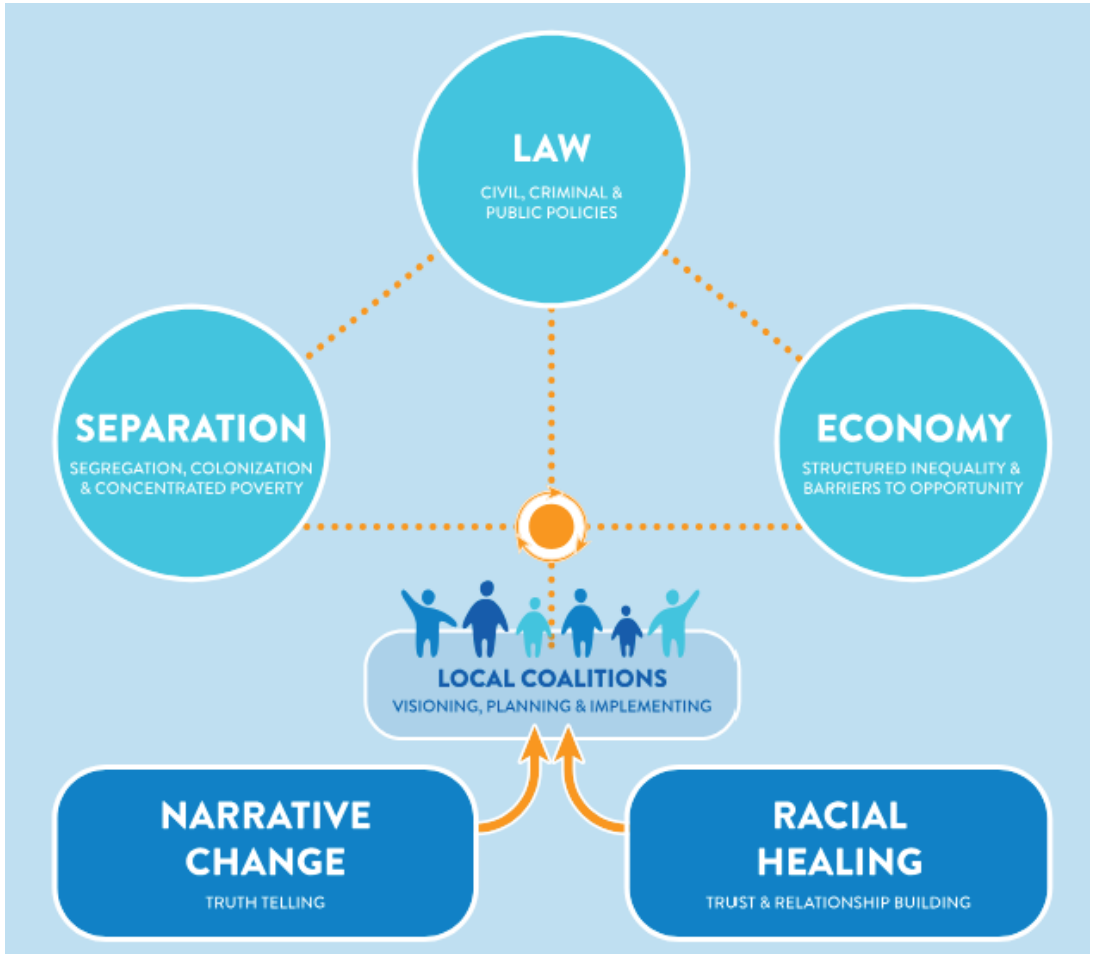
- Origins: Founded for White, male, elite, Protestant landowners
- AAC&U is currently collaborating with 75 institutions serving as host institutions charged with implementing visionary non-partisan action plans for diverse audiences.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- To "jettison" the false belief in a hierarchy of human value.
- To create the next generation of strategic leaders to dismantle institutional and structural oppression through a shared humanity perspective

Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Framework



Separation

The false belief creates and sustains policies and practices that keep people apart.

Thus, addressing separation (while maintaining Indigenous sovereignty) includes working on residential segregation, colonization and isolation and what they produce—concentrated poverty and barriers to Opportunity.

This area also involves addressing the ways separation is embedded in our education system, our health and mental health care systems and our housing system; and in immigration and migration practices and policies.

Law

The country's colonial documents perpetuate the false belief in a hierarchy of human value, from the federal and state constitutions to the current criminal and civil laws, practices and policies that have derived from them.

Thus, addressing the law and how it is enforced at local, state, tribal and federal levels involves reviewing discriminatory civil and criminal statutes and public policies, while implementing solutions that produce new laws and applying existing laws and policies that are just for all.

Economy

We must transform economic practices and policies that sustain the hierarchy of human value.

Historically, and still today, financial gain has been the impetus for annihilation of Indigenous people and seizure of their land, enslavement of Africans, exclusion of some immigrant groups and exploitation of people of color in the labor force.

Work in this area involves studying structured inequality and barriers to economic opportunities in the community and implementing approaches that can create an equitable and just society.

Narrative Change

The human brain is wired for stories. Stories give us a frame of reference and help us understand our world, make decisions and solve problems. False narratives hamper our ability to understand our world and relationships as they are. Instead, they lead to us to create and reinforce perceptions that are untrue. **The stories told about our histories, children and communities can reinforce false beliefs—** and if we don't change these stories, we misunderstand ourselves and each other in ways that are harmful. Without intentional, truthful storytelling, erroneous beliefs always will manifest and reinforce negative outcomes for our country.

Our current national narrative denies the truth of who we are because it is biased and incomplete. Narrative change is a more complete story presented in school curricula, in the news media, in movies and television and radio, in digital media and gaming platforms, in cultural institutions and memorials of all kinds—even in the personal histories told within families. This process will influence our perspectives, perceptions, behaviors and interactions with one another so that we can more effectively create change.

What is the Community Healing Circle(Rx Racial Healing Circle?

Racial healing and trust-building work **focuses on ways for all of us to heal from the wounds of the past, to build mutually respectful relationships across racial and ethnic lines that honor and value each person.** This effort builds trusting and diverse intergenerational and community relationships that better reflect our common humanity.

There are many healing methodologies, including those already utilized in communities across the United States, and WKKF and TRHT communities have worked with hundreds of practitioners around the country who are skilled in facilitating healing approaches. Racial healing work must be done in a way that supports the local context and works across all, generations and sectors within a community.

Purpose for the Community Healing Circle

- The People Work (that)

- Aims to increase the individual, community and country's capacity

- To see ourselves in each other (allowing us to)

- Focus our energy, resources and discourse on uprooting the false ideology of a hierarchy of human value and to grow our common humanity.

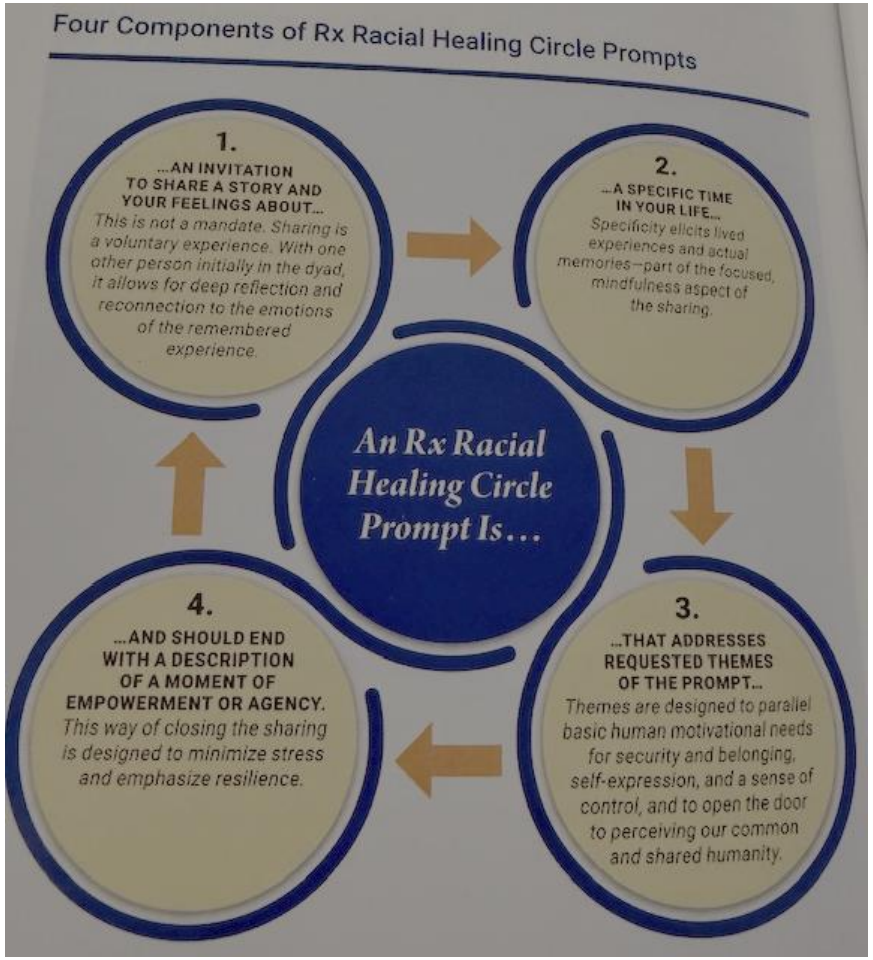
- Transformation is a world in which the false hierarchy of human value has been jettisoned and where the false belief and its consequences (racism) no longer shape our individual and collective experiences. –WKKF and Dr. Gail Christopher



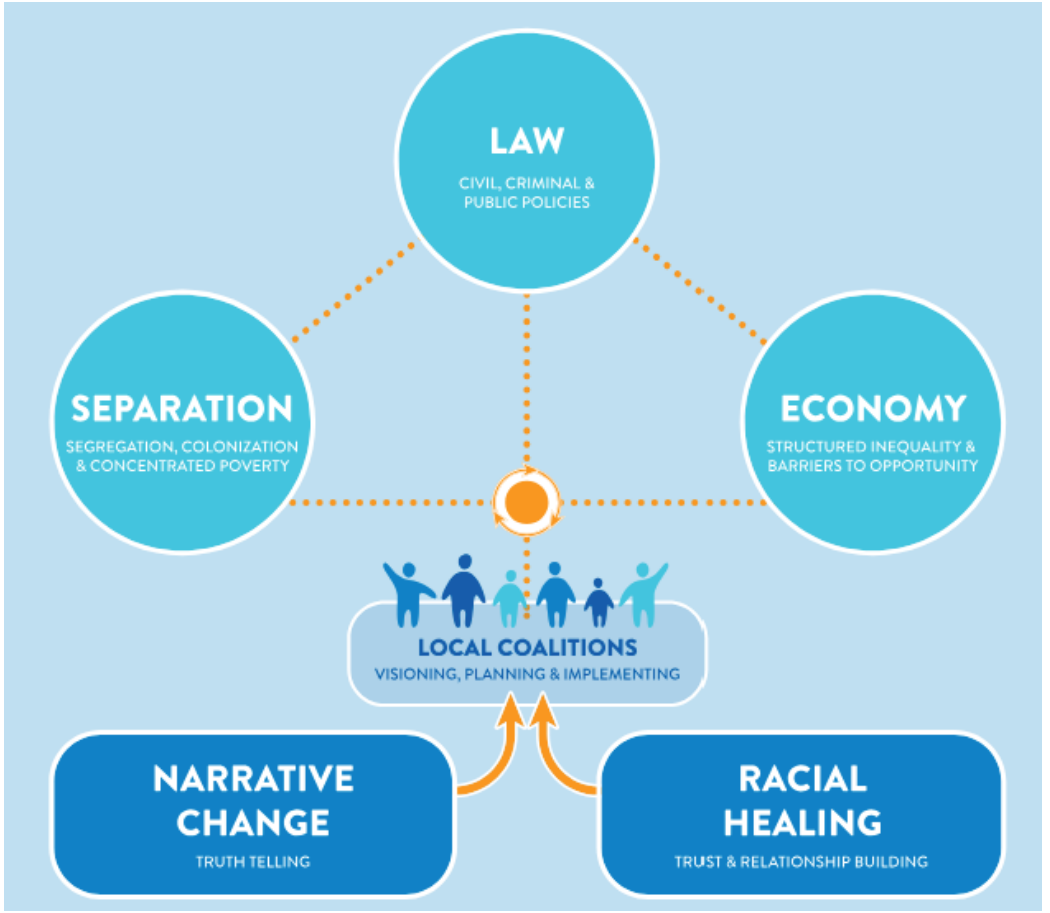
Community Healing Circle Key Elements

- Clearly Expressed Intention and Agreed Upon Purpose
- An understanding of the healing circle methodology within the broader context of healing circles.
- Compassionate cofacilitators.
- A thoughtful process for inviting a diverse group of people, representing diverse perspectives to be part of the circle.
- A space large enough to hold your circle that is comfortable, and if possible, located in a neutral setting.
- Dyads pairings to facilitate a prompted sharing of authentic personal narratives, including deep listening and affirming feedback.
- Prompts or guiding questions to help participants recall meaningful life experiences to share.

Four Components of Healing Circle Prompts



Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Framework



AAC&U Strategic Initiatives

Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers

Truth, Community Healing, & Transformation (TCHT) Campus Centers

75 Campus Centers

Guiding Question for Campus Centers

What will our communities look, feel, and be like when the false belief in a heirarchy of human value no longer exists?

Goals & Objectives of the TRHT and TCHT Campus Centers

- **Develop and implement a visionary plan**

  Create a positive narrative about race in the community
  Promote racial healing and community healing activities on campus and in the community.

  Erase structural barriers to equal treatment and opportunity within the economic, legal, educational, and residential components of the community.

- **Identify and examine current realities of race relations in their community and the local history that has led to these Realities**

- **Envision what their community will look, feel, and be like when the belief in a racial hierarchy has been jettisoned**

- **Pinpoint key leverage points for change, key stakeholders, and others who must be engaged**

2016 – Framework Summit



Pillars of Change

Areas of Integration

NARRATIVE CHANGE

- Entertainment
- Journalism & News Media
- Digital Media
- Publishing
- School Curriculum
- Cultural Institutions

RACIAL HEALING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

SEPARATION

- Decolonization
- Housing
- Health
- Arts & Culture
- Immigration & Migration
- Education

LAW

- Enforcement
- Safety
- Criminal Justice
- Mass Incarceration
- Immigration & Migration
- Education

ECONOMY

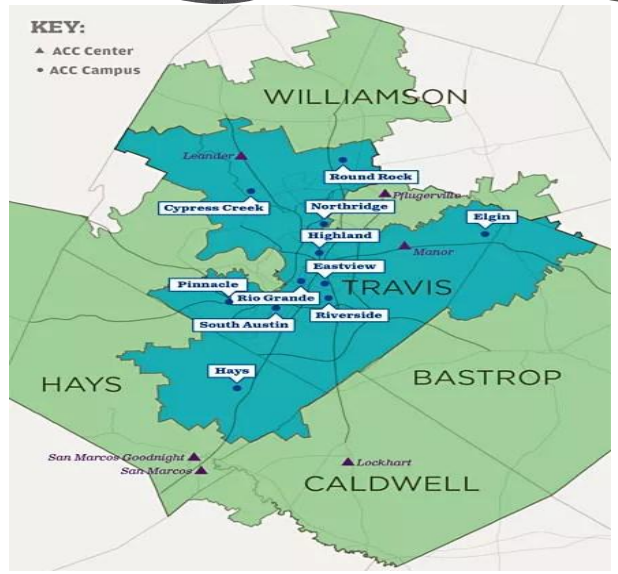
- Employment
- Labor
- Workforce
- Wealth
- Immigration & Migration
- Education

Engaging a multi-campus system and in our TCHT Work!



Austin Community College District, Austin, TX

- In 1909, the St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association purchased 306 acres for an orphanage and school, which served 15,000 people at its peak. The orphanage was mysteriously burned which forced a sale of the land.
- First & only Community College in the Inaugural 10 Institutions in 2017
- First TRHT Center in the state of Texas
- Expansive Institution serving between 70-80,000 students annually across what was 9 but will be 11 campuses in 2027!

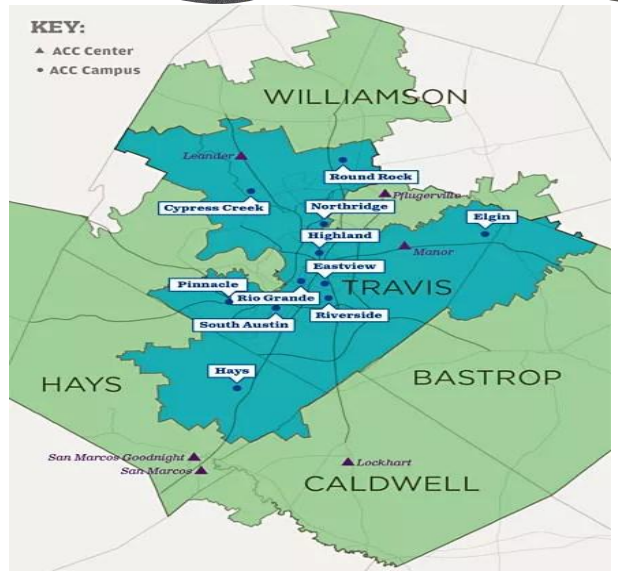


Engaging a multi-campus system and in our TCHT Work!



Austin Community Truth, Community Healing & Transformation Center

- Office of Belonging & Purpose
- Staff / TCHT Support Team / Collaborative Culture Magazine Team
- Nearly 100 Community Partners
- Education, Resources, Consultations, Trainings, Workshops, In Person/Hybrid Programs



Have it Your Way! – Carefully Curated Curricula Hosted in Our Center or on Any of Our 11 Campuses in a Venue of Your Choosing!

Dr. Williams speaks at *A Collaborative Culture's* Fall 2024 Release Event.



The TRHT is Here to Support You!

by Dr. Khayree Williams, TRHT Director

Despite these evolving societal, cultural, and legislative changes that impact how we engage, learn, and grow regarding differences, hope is not lost!

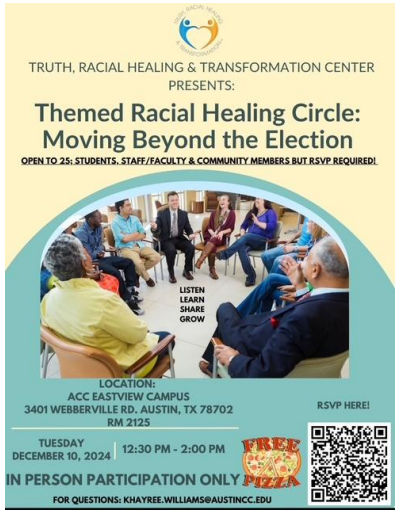
Every student, faculty/staff, and community member deserves empowerment toward belonging and purpose! Thus, Austin Community College leaders have done their due diligence to ensure we are fully compliant with the existing national and local policies regarding inclusion so we can continue to provide quality, tailored learning opportunities to strengthen our individual and community learning, which will enable us to be better citizens inside and outside of ACC.

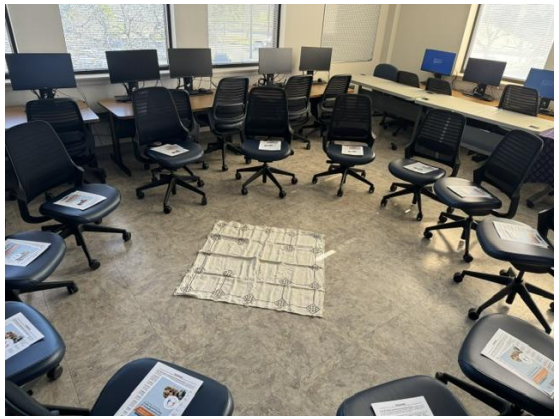
The Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center still provides various dynamic services that meet student, faculty/staff, and community member needs where they are at developmentally and demographically. We deliver services in the form of Courageous

* Consultations- Customized Faculty/Staff Developments Community Healing Circles *Clifton Gallup's Strengths Trainings *EDUC 1300 Engagement *Student Leadership Training *Heritage Month Programming*Intersectionality Programming *Summer Speaker Series *Community Partner Co-Sponsorships *Keynote & Panelists Engagement *Community Tabling









A Collaborative Effort to Designing A Curriculum that works for your audience!



- One on One Consultations
- Date/Time
- Venue
- Title
- Outcomes
- Food
- Design /Prompts
- First Draft/Final Draft
- Follow-up

Team Work Makes the Dream Work!
A Collaborative Approach to Engaging Our Community In Circles!









Breakouts

What resonates with you?

How do you understand the framework?

What questions do you still have about the framework?

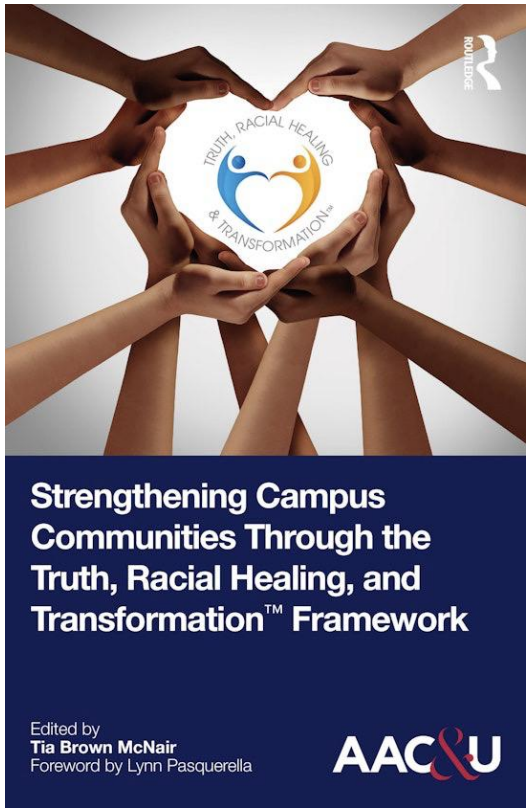
Hosting a TRHT or TCHT Campus Center

If your institution is interested in hosting a **TRHT** Campus Center, there are a few requirements:

• Attendance at a Campus Centers Institute (yay you are here!)
• Development of an action plan that aligns with the TRHT Framework
• Institutional commitment to the TRHT effort
• Completion of the sublicense agreement to utilize the TRHT framework and logo
• Participation in the TRHT Campus Center cohort evaluation efforts and dissemination reports
• Adherence to identity logo guidelines

If your institution is interested in hosting a new **TCHT** Campus Center: these are the next steps

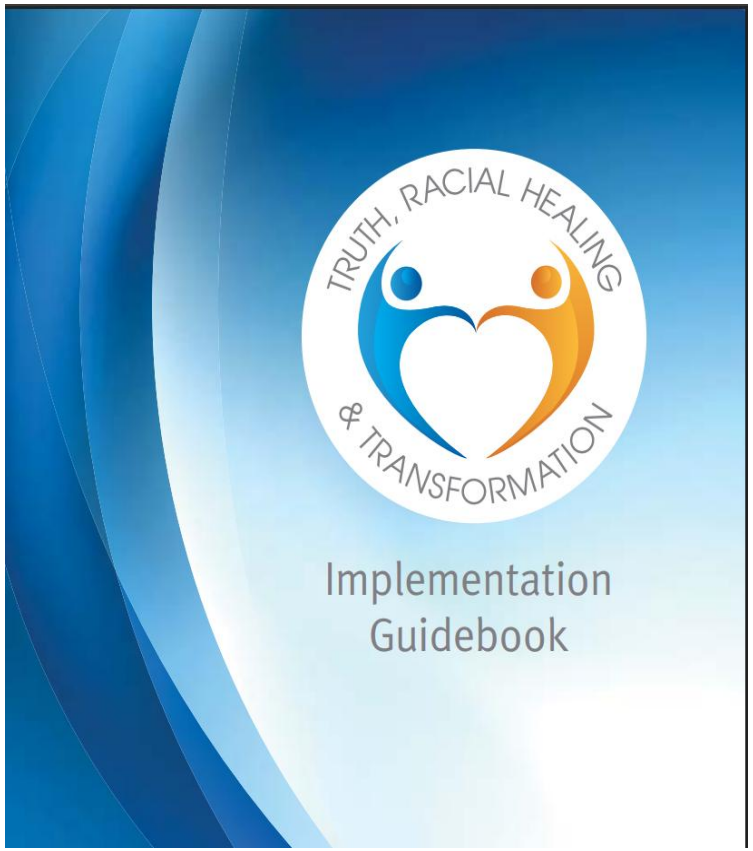
• Attendance at a Campus Centers Institute (yay you are here!)
• Development of an action plan that aligns with the TRHT Framework
• Institutional commitment
• To continue forward please email us indicating your interest as we are planning to meet with current TCHT centers and mentors to discuss how we fold in new centers to this expansive framework. We will work with you as we develop a path forward.



- This edited volume serves as a guide for creating a more equitable future for our communities through the collaborative efforts of higher education institutions and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's national Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation™ (TRHT) efforts.

- Through case studies and practical examples, this publication showcases effective strategies for advancing narrative change, promoting racial healing, and building the relationships needed to achieve shared equity goals where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Implementation Guidebooks



2016 – 82 pages



2023 – 192 pages

Resources:

TRHT Implementation Guidebook 2023

TRHT Implementation Guidebook 2016

Book: Strengthening Campus Communities through the TRHT Framework

Questions and/or Comments

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