

**Benjamin L. Hooks Institute Will Host Open House Oct. 9**

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October 1, 2014 - The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis will hold its annual Open House on Thursday, Oct. 9, in the Michael D. Rose Theatre. A reception will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the program following at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Open House will showcase Hooks Institute programs, highlight upcoming events and include a panel discussion by U of M faculty members who have been appointed by the Hooks Institute as policy Fellows to take a hard look at issues that must be tackled to create a socially sustainable and economically vibrant Memphis. The panel discussion will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

U of M faculty members and Hooks Policy Fellows Dr. Elena Delavega, Dr. John E. Gnuschke and Dr. Gregory Washington will present their research as part of the collection of papers which focus on how education, health, economic and other disparities create distress in Memphis. Specifically, the papers address the link between poverty and poor educational outcomes for African-Americans and others, the state of the middle class and African-American families, and the conditions that contribute to the high incarceration rate of African-American males in Memphis.

This event will be an opportunity for community members, leaders, activists, University faculty, staff and students to come together, call for action and discuss these issues that impact the social, educational, and economic outcomes for individuals and their communities.

In 1996, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the creation of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change in the College of Arts & Sciences at the U of M. The mission of the Institute is teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change. The Hooks Institute archives include Hooks' personal papers, which are housed in the McWherter Library's Mississippi Valley Collection.