**Talkin’ ‘Bout Our Generations:**
Bridging the racial generation gap is about strengthening the American future

*New report uses innovative and regional data to show how the racial generation gap is transforming our nation and what this means for the future of public investment*

Los Angeles, CA – With the backdrop of rapid demographic change across the nation, research released today by the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) shows what the racial generation gap looks like in different regions across the nation, the need to foster fact-based and values-driven conversations to bridge that gap, and the implications for our collective future.

*Talkin’ ‘Bout Our Generations: Data, Deliberation, and Destiny in a Changing America* highlights the disconnection between our older generations and our younger ones. Demographic change rarely proceeds without tension: Fights erupt around public school funding, zoning and permitting (think of NIMBYs), public transit, and more.

“Older and politically powerful generations no longer see themselves in the younger generation and are pulling up the public-spending drawbridge. The result: Under-educated and under-prepared youth won’t be able to support the nation’s tax base, assume the roles and responsibilities of retirees, and more. The failure to invest is bad for all,” says Professor Manuel Pastor, the report’s co-author and director of USC PERE. “So there’s much to be gained from bridging the racial generation gap.”

Rather than starting with these fears, the report suggests starting with data, not division, and applying an equity lens to enter into civic conversations about public investment and our collective future.

- By **2044**, the U.S. will be a “majority-minority” nation.
- Already, this divergence can be seen in **median ages**: 36 for whites, 36 for Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, 33 for Blacks, and 27 for Latinos.
- But this gap comes with vast differentials by **education** and **income**. For example, while 34 percent of non-Hispanic whites have a B.A. or higher, only 18 percent of U.S.-born Latinos do. The graph below shows how younger generations are not keeping up economically, with the prior generations.
Findings from the report include 45 charts and maps, as well as in-depth numbers and narratives for three metropolitan regions intended to illustrate common patterns of demographic change: Fresno, CA; Charlotte, NC; and the Twin Cities region, MN-WI. Data for these regions explore many nuanced points, including:

- **The “Homegrown” Problem:** The striking disparities between migrants and those born locally
- **Drivers of Population Growth:** Who is driving regional population growth by race/ethnicity and immigration status
- **Intergenerational Dependency:** How much workers are supporting non-workers

Hilary Pennington, vice president of the Ford Foundation and former director of The Generations Initiative said, “This report highlights data and forward-thinking solutions that bridge divides and deepen networks across communities through values-based conversations. A growing workforce that is younger and more diverse is an advantage to leverage, not fear. America’s shared future depends on generations advancing together.”

Download the report at: [http://dornsife.usc.edu/PERE/generations-data-deliberation](http://dornsife.usc.edu/PERE/generations-data-deliberation)

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**About PERE:** Established in 2007, the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) is a research unit situated within the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts & Sciences. PERE conducts research and facilitates discussions on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and social movement building. PERE’s work is rooted in the new three R’s: rigor, relevance, and reach. We conduct high-quality research in our focus areas that is relevant to public policy concerns and that reaches to those directly affected communities that most need to be engaged in the discussion. Visit PERE’s website: [http://dornsife.usc.edu/PERE](http://dornsife.usc.edu/PERE)