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Ethnic Studies**

For Immediate Release

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NAES Decries Backlash Against ‘White Guilt’ Video

The National Association for Ethnic Studies supports and stands behind its President, Dr. Ravi K. Perry and his use of the video, “The Unequal Opportunity Race,” as part of his presentation to the Glen Allen High School in Henrico County, VA. Dr. Perry was invited to speak to students and faculty at the school during Black History Month. The slightly longer than 4 minute video depicts a “rigged” race between white and people of color runners on a track field. The clock that is displayed starts at 1492, but the non-white runners don’t get to start running until 1964 (The Civil Rights Act of 1964). The video then goes on to show that even after 1964 when the other runners were allowed to move, non-white runners encountered many other obstacles.

Dr. Perry’s use of the video demonstrates his ability to include material that succinctly and powerfully summarizes 400 years of American history in a visual medium to an age appropriate audience. Dr. Perry’s Black History Month presentation at Glen Allen High School was an academically rigorous and accessible public lecture.

The National Association for Ethnic Studies is proud of its role in advancing social justice and of the leadership of Dr. Perry. The backlash to the video and Dr. Perry’s presentation, sadly, highlights how many of our fellow citizens cannot bear to look at our nation’s history, even for 4 minutes. The National Association for Ethnic Studies looks toward a future in which our nation can see and acknowledge its complicated and difficult past, and have the vision to work together to create an “equal opportunity” and outcome for all us.

The mission of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of Ethnic Studies. In promoting social justice and equality, NAES serves as a forum for promoting Ethnic Studies research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences, and assistance to Ethnic Studies programs to develop civic minded and culturally informed communities and people.