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Wednesday, October 11, 2006

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Summit builds bridge to breach racial divide

Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- Marsha Foster Boyd moved to Detroit three months ago to become president of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary and was shocked at how negatively people portrayed Detroit, even Detroiters.

But after participating in the 2006 Leadership Summit on Race organized by New Detroit, she came away feeling better about the city's and region's future race relations.

"Coming to this showed me there are people who are willing and able to make a difference," she said during a luncheon Tuesday afternoon that ended the three-day conference at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. "I am very encouraged that people in power know the issues."

Participants broke into groups that used hand-held electronic voting devices to vote on solutions. The recommendations will be distributed this week, officials said.

Some of the recommendations included opening dialogues that can be painful, and benchmarking what has worked in other communities.

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