LOOKING FORWARD:
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE & LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT AMERICA

U.S. Decadal Growth Rates for Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2010
IMMIGRATION AS A (NON-) FACTOR

A Leveling Off: Immigrant Share of Total Population
California, Los Angeles, and the U.S.

A MUCH MORE SETTLED IMMIGRANT POPULATION

Percent of Immigrant Population in U.S. Since 1999
Percent Foreign-born by Length of Time in U.S. by State

Percent Latino by State, 2010
U.S. Change in Racial Identification of Latinos, 1980-2010

1980 Percent People of Color by County

- Less than 40% People of Color
- "Tipping Point" Counties: 40% to 50% People of Color
- Greater than 50% People of Color

Sources: 2010 Census, Census TIGER Line, AGES, and ESRI
Portrait of America: The Changing Suburbs

Percent Non-Hispanic White, 1980

- Less than 25%
- 25% to 50%
- 50% to 75%
- More than 75%
South Los Angeles with 2000 U.S. Census Tract Boundaries

Total Population:
1990: 802,371
2000: 825,408
2005-09: 858,773

7% increase from 1990 to 2005-09
### South Central High School Demographics, 1981-1982 School Year

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### South Central Los Angeles High School Demography, 2004-2005 School Year

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THE CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY

Income Distribution in the U.S., 1917-2012


10/16/2013
WE USED TO BE OPPORTUNITY-RICH . . .

Once considered a land of opportunity, California is now one of the most unequal states in the U.S.

Note: The Gini coefficient is a measure of income inequality. A zero coefficient implies that all households in a state have exactly the same amount of income; a coefficient of 1.0 means a single household has all the state’s income.

Changing Returns to Education in California, 1979-2009

Real wage earned at various education points – note that the return has increased for college grads such that the wage premium was about 100 percent in 1979 and is now nearly 200 percent in 2009.

Prepared by USC PERE | April 23, 2013 | 38
THE CHALLENGE OF INEQUALITY

Figure 3-1. U.S. Resident Median Family Income 1947-2011
(in 2011 Dollars)

Percent of Families Living Below 150 Percent of the Federal Poverty Line by Race/Ethnicity,
Los Angeles Metro, 1990-2010*
THINKING OLD: EQUITY VS. EFFICIENCY

- Conventional wisdom in economics
  - Need for large-scale investment
  - Shift from low to high productivity
  - Incentives and motivation
- But new equity and growth synergies?
  - Countries in the global south
  - Regions in the U.S.
  - Recent financial crisis

FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE

- Federal Reserve of Cleveland studies almost 120 mid-size regions, looking for factors that predict regional prosperity
  - Usual suspects: skilled workforce, quality of life, industrial decline
  - Unusual suspects: income inequality, racial exclusion, concentration of poverty – and they’re highly significant
WHY EQUITY?

We found this in our research, too.

PUNCHLINES FROM REGRESSION WORK

• Largest and most significant factor associated with shortened growth spells is levels of inequality

• Residential segregation and political diffusion also associated with shortened growth spells

• Other factors include education levels and economic structures
IT'S A BROADER STORY

- Underinvestment in each other makes us less competitive as a nation
- Social tensions over who will gain and who will lose make us less likely to cohere on what we need to do to thrive

OUR STAKE IN IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigrants are:

- One in three County residents
- 46 percent of the LA County workforce
- Children of immigrants are 64 percent of all LA County children
- Of the children of immigrant parents, nearly ninety percent are US citizens

Source: PERE analysis of 2006 ACS data
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

• Diversity is driving population change – and is occurring everywhere
• If we don’t address inequality, the future is more challenging
• Understand that our gaps are partly about bridging generations and geographies

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE . . .
LEADING THROUGH THE DIVIDE

- Understand that the coming generation is not angry but aspirational
- Stress that equity and inclusion are not add-ons but rather are fundamental and defining
- Emphasize that Latino issues are America’s issues; America’s issues are Latino issues
FOR MORE...

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