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Being Black and southern, educated engineer

3 Comments



Kristen Ellerbe,
Richmond, VA.

Calling me an Oreo or not really black, or basically a white girl means that you define some part of my personality, attitude, preferences, or demeanor as being owned and attributed solely to white people. Is it my intelligence, my sense of style, or how I speak? Is it because I'm well read, interested in politics, or surround myself

with more than just other black people. If you know or not, my choice to laugh, ignore it, or otherwise not act is to not embarrass you because I love you. Even in your ignorance. I am BLACK. Yes, I am also Filipino. Just like I'm also a woman and an American. Do not belittle my blackness because I don't come from an urban culture. That is aimed at all people. What you call white, I just see as part of the culture I was raised in: middle class, educated Southern culture. I was raised deeply imbued with that STEM fields give us freedom. My father raised me and I knew I would be an engineer. So now I am an adult engineer, in traditional social sorority, and graduated from an Ag-Tech public university. Yes, I listen to country music. Yes, I am well-spoken. Yes, I am 25 and own my own home. No, I don't consider myself white. Yes, I am marrying a black man. Yes, he is an engineer. Yes, I read the newspaper and drink pumpkin lattes. I wear Lilly Pulitzer and bows in my hair. I wear my hair natural and it is not an afro. But these are things that do not define my race. They define my culture and it is not a white culture. It is my culture which inherently makes is black.

So just stop. #endrant

SEARCH



FACES OF TRCP





Make your Race Card

IN THE NEWS



Yes I'm tobacco-pickin white trash



Who Will Us Be? with Anand Giridharadas, Eric Liu, Michele Norris, Monica Lozano & Paul Taylor



Michele Norris steps away from NPR to grow The Race Card Project.



Michele Norris & John Legend in Ferguson for, Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America.



In Conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates at AtlanticLive New York Ideas 2015

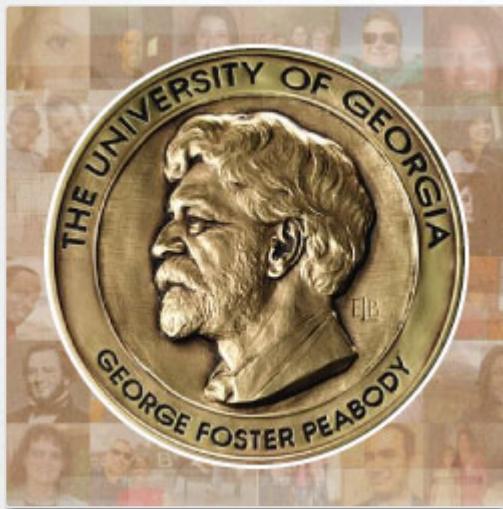


GENERAL ERIC HOLDER, MODERN DAY CIVIL RIGHTS CHALLENGES

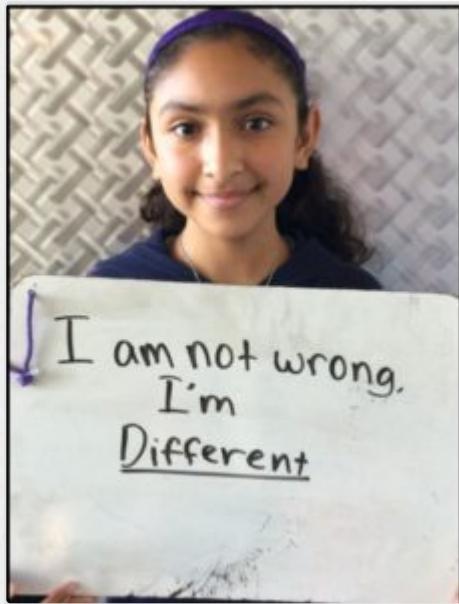
Michele Norris and Genera...



PEABODY AWARD



SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL



"We are seventh graders at High Tech Middle Media Arts striving for change, so silence is not an option."

RECENT RACE CARDS



No Bi-racial Couples Allowed at Prom.



Yes, I transitioned. Still white, though.



It is not always obvious; hurt



BLM protests have turned me



Weary of Pity from White People.



4.0 MW

TAGS

African American American Ann Arbor anonymous Asian Black CA co Color culture different Family first experience FL GA Hispanic human identity IL love MA MD Mexican MI mixed MN MO NC NJ NY OH OR PA Race racism Racist Retail Bank skin stereotype twitter TX USA VA WA white

Tweets by Michele Norris

Tweets by @michele_norris



MAKE YOUR RACE CARD

VIEW THE CARDS

ABOUT THE PROJECT