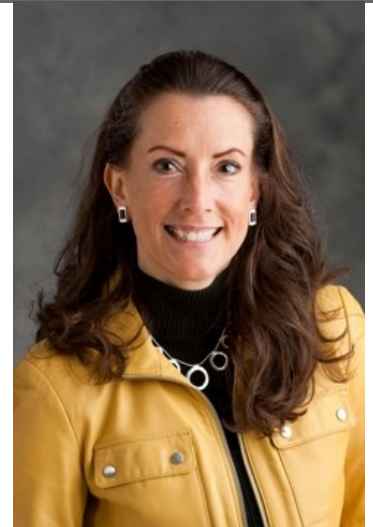




**The Diversity Research Center
Visiting Scholar Presentation
Dr. Karen Downing**

March 7, 2011
11:30am-1:00pm
Dana Room
Dana Library at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ



"Why and How Diversity Matters in Libraries and on Campuses"

With so much talk about the importance of diversity in U.S. society, what do we really know about *why* and *how* diversity matters in academe? Dr. Karen Downing's presentation will include her analysis of the scholarship on the impact of diverse faculty and librarians on our academic campuses. She will discuss her own research that investigates the ways that diverse social identities impact the collections and services in academic libraries.

Dr. Downing is a highly regarded researcher and advocate for diversity issues in libraries and higher education, more broadly. Her research has addressed many aspects of diversity in libraries, including social identity and professional roles in academe, race as a dynamic and social construct, biracialism and multiracialism, and the role of diversity and peer teaching and learning.

In addition to being a researcher and a longtime leader on issues of diversity at the national level, Dr. Downing brings a depth of knowledge of the University of Michigan's efforts to foster diversity in the recruitment of students, amidst substantial legal challenges. She is currently the University Learning Communities Liaison and Foundation & Grants Librarian at University of Michigan. In more than 20 years at the University of Michigan, she has also held the positions of Assistant to the Dean of Libraries for Cultural Diversity and Staff Development Officer and Coordinator of Academic Outreach Services. In 2009, she received the American Library Association's Equality Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in promoting equality in the library profession. She is a frequent speaker and has published many journal articles and two books, *Reaching a Diverse Student Community* and *Multiracial America: A Resource Guide on the History and Literature of Interracial Issues*.

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