Know Thyself: The Power of Antiracist Students

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What happens when students recognize the many forms of institutional and individual racism on their campuses, and their own power to challenge these forms of racism? This dual recognition has been the key to educational change. It was the key in the 1960s, and it remains the key today as student activists demand an antiracist higher education.

Ibram X. Kendi is an assistant professor of African American history at the University of Florida. He is the author of the award-winning book The Black Campus Movement: Black Students and the Racial Reconstitution of Higher Education, 1965–1972, the first national study of Black student activism during that period. Kendi has received research fellowships, grants, and visiting appointments from a variety of universities, foundations, professional associations, and libraries, including the American Historical Association, Library of Congress, National Academy of Education, Spencer Foundation, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Brown University, Princeton University, Duke University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California at Los Angeles. His second book, Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, will be released by Nation Books on April 12, 2016. Follow him on Twitter: @DrIbram.