

## **Richard W. Thomas**

### Short-Bio

Richard W. Thomas is a Professor of History at Michigan State University, where he has taught since 1971. He has lectured and made presentations on race relations in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Switzerland, Fiji, Australia and South Africa. He has been conducting workshops on race relations for over thirty years. Dr. Thomas is author and co-author of several books on race relations and the African-American experience including: Detroit: [Race and Uneven Development](#), [Racial Unity: An Imperative for Social Progress](#), [Life for Us Is What We Make It: Building The Black Community In Detroit](#), and [Understanding Interracial Unity: A Study of U.S. Race Relations](#).

In 1993 he was one of several recipients of the All-University Diversity Award for excellence in diversity work. In 1995 he was awarded the Wesley-Logan Prize awarded by the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History for his book: [Life For Us Is What We Make It: Building The Black Community in Detroit, 1915-1945](#).

In 1997, he was awarded the Gustavus Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America for the outstanding work on intolerance in North America, for his book, [Understanding Interracial Unity: A Study of U.S. Race Relations](#). He has been a member of the Baha'i community since 1961 and presently serves on the Regional Council of the Baha'is of the Central States.