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University Relations

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**MORRIS**

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**Dr. Bertice Berry to give Martin Luther King Day of Service keynote speech**

*Summary: The award-winning entertainer, lecturer, and comedienne is known as “a comic with a serious message.”*

(January 8, 2010)-An address by Dr. Bertice Berry, noted sociologist, educator, lecturer, author, and comedienne, will serve as the culminating activity for the Martin Luther King Day of Service at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The daylong education, reflection, leadership development, and service event will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010. The public is invited to all of the Martin Lutheran King Day of Service activities, including Berry’s keynote speech at 5 p.m. in Oyate Hall in the Student Center.

A high school teacher told Berry, who grew up poor in Delaware, that she was “not college material.” Undeterred, she found her way to the University of Florida, Jacksonville, where she graduated magna cum laude and received the President’s Cup for leadership. She then earned a doctorate in sociology from Kent State University. Today, the award-winning entertainer, lecturer, and comedienne is known as “a gifted speaker with a comic edge” and “a comic with a serious message.”

The Martin Lutheran King Day of Service begins with opening remarks and King’s “I Have a Dream” speech at 11:30 a.m. followed by a complimentary lunch and discussion. Leadership and service opportunities follow at 12:45 p.m. All community children, kindergarten through sixth grade, are invited to participate in activities in the campus Student Center from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. A complimentary dinner will be served in Food Service at 6 p.m. following Berry’s address.

Contact Becky Landenberger at [landenr@morris.umn.edu](mailto:landenr@morris.umn.edu) or 320-589-6981 for more information. Although not necessary to attend, registrations would be appreciated to plan for transportation, food and supplies.

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