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Campus and community to celebrate Martin Luther King Day of Service

Summary: His dream, we dream, our dream—
the first annual Martin Luther King Day of Service is open to all community members and will include activities for children.

(December 7, 2009)—Martin Luther King fought against racial segregation and discrimination until his death in 1968. Today, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day each January, and this year, for the first time, the University of Minnesota, Morris will sponsor a day of service in honor of his legacy on Monday, January 18, 2010. The day of service is open to all community members and will include activities for children.

“We have always wanted to find a way to celebrate Martin Luther King’s life and legacy on campus,” said Argie Manolis, coordinator of the Office of Community Engagement. “It will give our students a chance to reconnect before the start of the new semester, learn more about their community, and connect with community members. We are excited about the number of co-sponsors on campus and the enthusiasm from our community partners.”

Members of our community age 10 to 100 are welcomed to participate in the entire day’s activities. The day of service begins at 11:30 a.m. with a free lunch and a discussion of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. From 12:30 until 1:30 p.m., participants, organized into small groups, will prepare for service projects in the community or a leadership development opportunity on campus. At 1:30, transportation will be provided to off-campus service sites that include Grandview Apartments, Courage Cottage, West Wind Village, Salvation Army, and Someplace Safe. Service and leadership development projects (if more people participate than the service sites can accommodate) will also be held on campus.

All community children, kindergarten through sixth grade, are invited to participate in the children’s activities in the Student Center on campus from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., participants, including children and their families, will gather in Oyate Hall for a keynote address by motivational speaker and educator Dr. Bertice Berry. A complimentary dinner in Food Service will follow.

If you and your family are interested in participating in the day of service, contact Becky Landenberger at landenr at morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6981. Although the campus will accommodate participants who have not registered, registrations would be greatly appreciate to plan for transportation, food, and supplies.

Photo of Martin Luther King (circa 1960) courtesy of LIFE photo archives.

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