

MLK-Unity March

Introduction

I am proud to be a part of this march that honors
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From this broader perspective, the events of the next
several days take on unusual significance
for three fundamental reasons:

- 1) Of course, it is fitting and important that we remember and honor
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of our great national leaders.
- 2) The events we have planned are also designed to focus
the University's attention on both the importance and
the challenge of our efforts to build a model of the
type of pluralistic, multicultural community necessary to
serve America in the years ahead.
- 3) And, of course, by coming together to participate in
these activities, we recognize the importance of
community--that only by working together, with
love and respect, can we move toward Dr. King's
dream of a nation united.

Inspired by Dr. King's memory, we have set
aside this time to come together as a community...
...to march together...
...to find inspiration in a life lived heroically for others
...to celebrate and learn from the lessons of this life,
...to renew our individual and collective commitment
to create a multicultural community in which
each person is valued and respected.

This march symbolizes for me what we are trying to
achieve at our University:

People working together,
walking down a new road.

A road that will call for commitment and hard work
from each one of us as individuals...

We all know that change is not easy---
not in ourselves or in our institution.

Dr. King's Legacy

But the life of Dr. King teaches us that change is possible.
He taught us that the power of ideas,
the power of a great teacher,
the power of courage and love,

can overcome prejudice and hatred.
The power of people joined together in a common cause
to change the world.

What can we do?

Each one of you, in your own work, can play a part in
making the ideals of Dr. King a living reality by
helping to build a more caring community on this campus.
For just as we must learn to value our difference, we must
also be bound together by our common values and purposes.
Every one of us must help to build that sense of common bonds,
of caring, of compassion, of community.
I hope all of you who have joined in this march today
are also taking part in the many extraordinary programs
and events planned to honor Dr. King today.
They honor Dr. King and his legacy, and they are
meant to help us draw strength from that legacy\
to meet the challenges before us today.
I know I speak for other members of the University
when I thank the students for organizing this
Unity March and giving us all the chance to join
together to affirm our deep personal and institutional
commitment to remove all barriers to the full participation
of all groups in the life of our University.