

## **MLK-Closing**

### **Introduction**

Mayor Young, Distinguished Guests, Friends and Colleagues  
It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you here this evening for the closing event of the Martin Luther King Symposium.

Today we have been honoring the memory of one of our nation's greatest leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on this date some 59 years ago.

Indeed, the challenge and importance of building a multicultural institution capable of serving our state, our nation, and the world in the years ahead. Inspired by Dr. King's memory

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head 3 - aside thkÛ time to come together as a community...

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- **...to find inspiration in a life li`ed heroically for others**

...to(celebrate and learn from the lessons of this life,

...to,zenew our individual and collective comaitmnt

head 4 - to create a multicultural community (ly true that have a wÖry long way to go to fulfill Dr. King's dream and to live up to our own convictions and purposes, both as individuals and as an institution.

**But our future lies not in debate and analysis...**

...it lies in action.

**Indeed, in a very real sense, the series of events**

we have participated as we have honored Dr. King's memory provide an occasion

...to remember...

...to celebrate...

...and to prepare for action!

**The Challenge of the Michigan Mandate**

Many of you know that the University of Michigan is developing something we call the Michigan Mandate.

It is our plan, our roadmap, to a diverse future for the University in which all barriers are removed to the full participation of all in the life of our university.

Many of us have become firmly convinced that the ability of the University to achieve and sustain a campus community recognized for its racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity will determine not only our capacity to serve our state and nation and the world, but indeed will become the cornerstone of our efforts to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and service in the years ahead.

Indeed, we believe the University of Michigan has a mandate to build a model of a multicultural community for our nation...an environment which is supportive of all individuals, regardless of race, creed, national origin, gender, or sexual preference...

Which values and respects and indeed, draws its intellectual strength from the rich diversity of peoples of different races, cultures, religions, nationalities, and beliefs--even as they are drawn together by common values and purposes.

But we all know that a plan by itself won't take us anywhere.

It is only a framework for the actions of every one of us on this campus and of our extended family across the country

and the world.

We will go nowhere unless each one of us is committed to act to put Dr. King's ideals into practice on a daily basis.

...in appreciating the unique gifts and contributions of each person among us to our collective life

...in our learning and in our teaching...

...in our jobs, whatever they may be.

We need to put away our own doubts...

... and to rediscover our faith in ourselves...

...in each other...

...in our mission...

...and in our future!

Every person can make a difference in eliminating prejudice and racism.

And by working together, surely we can change this (university and carry forward Dr. King's dream.

### **The Example Set by Dr. King**

The road ahead will not be an easy one...

But I hope that you are inspired as I am by the example set by Dr. King.

He was not daunted by the enormity of the task before him.

He wasn't afraid of the forces arrayed against him.

He never descended to despair or hatred.

Dr. King held faith that the universe is on the side of justice.

That faith supported his action and that of his followers.

...in how we treat each other...

After all, one man, armed only with love and courage..

...has already changed both our nation and the world!

### **Closing Remarks**

Before closing, I want to thank the Martin Luther King Symposium Planning Committee for their extraordinary efforts in making these events so successful.

In particular I would like to thank co-chair Professor Claude Steele.

I wish to also thank Professor Homer Neal, Chairman of our Department of Physics and a distinguished colleague.

It is my pleasure to introduce Professor Neal who will, in turn, introduce our speaker tonight.

Professor Neal.