

MLK Welcome 1/14, 7:00 pm/Power Center

Format: Moody introduces you, you speak very briefly and introduce Senator Jackie Vaughn. He speaks briefly and you introduce Co Chair of the Planning Committee, Barbara Robinson, who will introduce principal speaker.

Speaker: Honorable Carrie Saxon Perry, Mayor of Hartford Conn./biodate attached.

**Tonight we begin the University's observance of the Birthday
of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**We have set aside this time to remember this remarkable leader,
to honor him and to reflect on his legacy to us
And to gain strength from his example
to continue his mission for justice
for human dignity and a decent life for all people.**

**It is important to remember that Dr. King
sought justice and equality for all people
Not just Black, or white and not just for Americans,
but all people the world over who suffered
discrimination or oppression or poverty.**

**This is a rare--too rare-opportunity to pause and reflect.
On our personal and institutional values,
On the meaning of Dr. King's values for our own lives
and for the future of our University.**

Perhaps the most important lesson to learn from Dr. King's life,
is that one person can truly change the world.

With faith, courage and unshakeable vision of justice
a willingness to sacrifice for the good of others,

Armed only with the power of ideas,
it is possible to alter the course of history.

Even more important than changing history,
is that one person can actually improve the quality,
and dignity of individual lives .

Millions of people are measurably better off
because of the life of one man.

The best way we can honor Dr. King is to commit ourselves
to achieving his vision.

That is why we have set aside this time to pause and reflect.
We don't do this often enough and it is important
to step outside the routines and imperatives of the moment
to consider the larger meaning and purpose of our own lives
and the values and purposes of our University.

The calendar tomorrow is an exciting and full one.

I hope we will all participate fully in the many events and
take part in the many opportunities for discussion
and for celebration of the life of Dr. King
and celebration of the wonderful contributions made to

our collective life by people of color,
people from many different backgrounds and experiences.

**But I also hope we will each set aside some time
to think about the meaning of this day for our daily lives
as students, faculty and staff.**

**How can each of us bring greater justice, equality and respect
for the dignity of human life to our learning-
to our teaching, research?**

**How can we better serve our society?....
Help to change our society?**

**How can we live together more respectfully and joyfully,
finding as much strength in our differences as in our common
human bonds?**

I believe we are beginning to make progress on this campus.

**I also know we have a long way to go
before we have removed all the barriers to equality.**

We will not succeed unless everyone is committed and involved.

**There are certain to be setbacks, disappointments,
plenty of mistakes as we move forward.**

**But we will move forward, we will be part
of making Dr. King's dream for us a reality.**

**Now I would like to introduce a great friend of education
A key leader in political life**

and an educator throughout his life,
and a defender of social justice in our State.

Senator Jackie Vaughn.

You should know that Senator Vaughn

is a scholar that got away.

With degrees from Hillsdale College,

Oberlin and Oxford, if he weren't a powerful force

in Lansing, we would be trying

to get him on the faculty!

Please join me in welcoming Senator Jackie Vaughn,

State Senator from Wayne County.

SENATOR VAUGHN

Now, I would like to introduce to you Barbara Robinson who

is a co-chair of the planning committee for this year's MLK

Symposium program.

I am sure all of the students already know Barbara

well because she is the mainstay

of minority student services.

She is also an example of committed service to the University.

She is someone who makes a difference

both on the job and in the many other ways

she contributes to University life.