January 2015

New York University announces MLK Week 2015

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the youngest man to be awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech Dr. King proclaimed, “I still believe that ‘We Shall overcome!’ This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom.” For the tenth-consecutive year, New York University will commemorate Dr. King’s visit and his legacy by hosting a weeklong schedule of special events and programs we are honoring and furthering his dream.

This year’s theme for MLK Week is, Beyond a Dream, and is intended to create an intergenerational dialogue about the importance of making bold strides towards lasting and meaningful change. The 10th Annual NYU Martin Luther King, Jr. Week will take place the week of February 2-7, 2015. The planning committee believes that it is imperative to commence a conversation about reflecting, igniting, and engaging our communities, in lieu of last year’s injustices and social issues. Three concepts - Reflect, Engage, Ignite - will be explored during this week of conversation and action. The line-up of events are intended to promote action in the name of justice and democracy.

The highlight of the week will be the NYU MLK University-Wide Event on Thursday, February 5th which will feature veteran Democratic political strategist, adjunct professor, author, syndicated columnist and the Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation at the Democratic National Committee, Donna Brazile, world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator Nikki Giovanni, and Brooklyn based socially conscious hip-hop artist Talib Kweli. There will also be a special performance from actor, poet, singer, Harlem native and NYU Tisch School of the Arts Alumni, Amy Leon.

On February 3rd, NYU will recognize and present the 2015 MLK Faculty Award to faculty members who exemplify the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. through their positive impact within the classroom and the greater NYU community. On February 5th, the NYU Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award will be presented to two humanitarians within the NYU community who embody and exemplify the characteristics promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- "a vision of peace, persistence in purpose, and inspirational action." In honor of Dr. King’s life’s work, the 2015 MLK Week Committee will honor 10 members from the NYU community who have contributed to the betterment of society through the newly established, Trailblazer Award.

To learn more about the University-wide event and other thought-provoking programming and activities planned by the NYU community at large, please visit the official NYU MLK Week 2015 website for details and information: http://www.nyu.edu/mlkweek.

Thank you for your interest and on behalf of the 2015 NYU MLK Week Committee, we look forward to your involvement and participation.

Sincerely,

Monroe France, Assistant Vice President for Student Diversity/ Director, NYU CMEP
NYU MLK Chair