January 2014

New York University announces MLK Week 2014

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.” Fifty years later, we are honoring and furthering his legacy of courage.

The 9th Annual NYU Martin Luther King, Jr. Week will take place February 3-8, 2014. The theme for this year is The Power of Courage: Passion, Purpose & Perseverance. The planning committee believes that it is poignant to commence a conversation about courage, in lieu of last year’s dialogue about failing to achieve social change and social justice. The line-up of events are intended to incite action in the name of justice and democracy.

There is a burgeoning generation actively seeking guidance as it pertains to activism. Thus, we are working to create a space for intergenerational dialogue about how to make bold strides towards lasting and meaningful change.

Highlighting the week is the MLK University-wide event, A Conversation with Professor Melissa Harris-Perry and Featured Guests, on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7pm in the Eisner & Lubin Auditorium, Kimmel Center for University Life. This highly anticipated University-wide event is an opportunity for community leaders to impart their invaluable knowledge on attendees. Professor, author and MSNBC show host Melissa V. Harris-Perry will provide the keynote address. Special guests include activist, writer, and philosopher, Grace Lee Boggs; Professor of Higher Education at New York University, scholar, and author, Dr. Teboho Moja; and Faith-based Scholar and activist Imam Daayiee Abdullah. Our hope is that these invited speakers, in the tradition of Dr. King, will incite the audience to take action.

We will also present the NYU MLK Jr. Humanitarian Award to 2003 NYU College of Arts and Science (CAS) graduate, Matiangai Sirleaf. Ms. Sirleaf is a Sharswood Fellow in International Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she pursues her research agenda and teaches courses on international human rights law and post-conflict and transitional justice. Ms. Sirleaf is a Sharswood Fellow in International Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she pursues her research agenda and teaches courses on international human rights law and post-conflict and transitional justice. She is a graduate of Yale Law School. Prior to law school, she earned an M.A. in International Affairs, from the University of Ghana-Legon while on a Fulbright Fellowship. Matiangal's practice experience includes serving as counsel in the International Human Rights Practice Group at Cohen Milstein, where she assisted with numerous cutting-edge international human rights cases, representing victims of human trafficking and forced labor, torture, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, and arbitrary detention.

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 2014 website for details and information: http://www.nyu.edu/mlkweek.

Thank you for your interest and on behalf of the 2014 NYU MLK Week Committee, we look forward to your involvement and participation.

Sincerely,

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