January 2016

New York University announces MLK Week 2016

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 eleventh-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 is a highly coveted affair for the university. Last year’s University Wide Event, Beyond a Dream which featured Donna Brazile, Nikki Giovanni and Talib Kweli is still being spoken about and remembered as an amazing and invigorating intergenerational dialogue that explored the importance of making bold strides towards lasting and meaningful change. This result was just what the planning committee hoped to achieve when we first settled on the theme.

As we plan for the 11th annual NYU MLK Week in February 2016, the committee has decided upon the theme: There Comes a Time... to commemorate Dr. King’s message on taking action to create change. Building off last year’s dialogue, we hope this call to action will bring up meaningful and sustained changes in light of last semester’s discussions on race, inclusion, and justice at NYU.

The highlight of the week will be the NYU MLK University-Wide Event on Thursday, February 4th which will feature acclaimed racial and civil rights activist, current Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York, and co-founder of the first Muslim online organizing platform, MPOWER Change, Linda Sarsour, and the first African-American woman to be promoted to principle dancer in the American Ballet Company Misty Copland.

On February 2nd, NYU will recognize and present the 2016 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 4th, the NYU Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award will be presented to one humanitarian within the NYU community who embodies and exemplifies the characteristics promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- "a vision of peace, persistence in purpose, and inspirational action." This year, the committee is excited to recognize Jennifer Jones Austin, the CEO and Executive Director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and a graduate of the NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

On February 3rd, NYU and the Speakers on the Square series will host writer, cultural commentator, and trans advocate Janet Mock. Author of Redefining Realness and contributing editor for Marie Claire, Mock will share her story and views on what action means in an ever-changing world.

Friday, February 5th will see a performance of Eric Coleman’s The Meeting. Hosted at the Tandon Campus in Brooklyn, this depicts a fictional account of a secret meeting between Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This riveting play deals with issues that are still relevant today: war, poverty, racism, Black self-empowerment. They were men with different ideologies, but a common understanding of the plight of Black Americans.
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 2016 website for details and information: http://www.nyu.edu/mlkweek.

Thank you for your interest and on behalf of the 2016 NYU MLK Week Committee, we look forward to your involvement and participation.

Sincerely,

Monroe France, Assistant Vice President for Student Diversity | NYU MLK Week Chair