

PRESS RELEASE

MLK Celebration Week @ NYU, January 2006

--New York, N.Y., November, 2005--

"It's only the beginning, NYU plans University-wide celebration in honor of Dr. King."

On February 10, 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech on civil rights, equity and nonviolence at New York University - a fact little known to NYU until recently, says Allen McFarlane, NYU assistant vice president for student diversity programs and services. In September 2005, McFarlane established a committee of students, faculty and administrators to plan an evening program that would honor Dr. King's legacy, commemorate his visit to NYU and start an NYU tradition. At the first meeting this evening program quickly developed into a weeklong celebration. "When I proposed the idea," said McFarlane, "the response from the community was overwhelmingly positive and one evening proved to be too limiting for the committee."

The MLK Celebration Week @ NYU is scheduled for January 15-21, 2006. The theme is "From Civil Rights to Social Justice: 'Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.'" Some of the week's highlights include a University-wide celebration, a student essay contest, community service projects and a teach-in.

On January 18, 2006 at 7p.m., the University will continue its celebration with an evening of student performances, a keynote address, an award presentation and reception. Sandra Bowie, managing director, TSOA Department of Drama, and the evening event co-chairperson, is leading a group to plan the January 18th featured event. "We are so thrilled to be a part of this effort," says Bowie. "Some of my colleagues and students are asking to be a part of this and hope that this effort is only the beginning."

Keith Beauchamp, celebrated documentary filmmaker of *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*, will give the keynote address. In 1999, he founded Till Freedom Come Productions, a company devoted to socially significant projects that both educate and entertain. He has devoted the past nine years of his life to pursuing justice for the lynching of Emmett Till. Last year, the U.S. Department of Justice re-opened the 50-year-old case citing Mr. Beauchamp's film documentary as a major factor in their decision.

In the spirit of community, schools, departments and offices have been invited to join the week's festivities by planning events as well. "We believe that the MLK Celebration Week at NYU is an appropriate way for the University community to collectively reflect on Dr. King's life and convictions while honoring his legacy and recognizing an individual whose work brings us closer to realizing his dream," says Bob Butler, executive director, Office of Student Activities.

A press conference on the MLK Celebration Week at NYU is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 12:30pm, Kimmel Center for University Life, Grand Staircase 2nd Floor. Please contact

Allen McFarlane, assistant vice president for Student Diversity Programs and Services by dialing extension 212.998.4345 for more information.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week Committee 2005-2006

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