



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. DAY

We pause today to reflect on the life and enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The third Monday of every January has been set aside to honor his achievements and to reaffirm our individual and collective commitment to the inalienable dignity of all.

Born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King knew firsthand the bitter pain of systemic racism. As a minister, civil rights worker, and organizer, he labored mightily to create a just and equal society. Though his life was cut short by an act of violence – he was only 39 when he was assassinated in 1968 – King’s commitment to the rights of people of color has inspired generations of activists around the globe. His use of non-violent protest and civil disobedience as tools of social change are widely used to this day.

King warned of the dangers of bitterness and despair, and it is wise to remember this when we survey the contemporary scene – one in which incidents of hatred and prejudice are on the rise. As so many have done, we can draw strength from Dr. King’s words: “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

There is still much to do to bring the world Dr. King envisioned into being. Our active participation will always be required to help realize the peaceable, equitable world of his galvanizing dream. His stirring example provides us with the courage to face any and every challenge to the recognition of our shared humanity.

I share with you a passage from Dr. King’s “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”:

“Universities adapting to the new needs of the day must learn how to develop the abilities of people who have had trouble with school in their youth and have not earned their credentials. They should be trained on the job, get university credit for their experience, learn in relevant courses and develop a liberal-arts knowledge that is built around their concerns. We need what S.M. Miller has called “second-chance universities.” A democratic educational system requires multiple doors.”

With gratitude,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

Luther King, Jr., Martin. “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”, Paperback ed., Beacon Press, Boston, MA, 2010, p.209.

Office of the President
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse, A-Building, Room 341, Bronx, NY 10451
718-518-4300 | PRESIDENTSOFFICE@hostos.cuny.edu

