

Nebraskans Statewide Honor Martin Luther King Jr. with Service and Celebrations

On Monday, January 17, 2011 the nation marked the 25th anniversary of the holiday recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy. Here are a few highlights of the events that took place across Nebraska.

Our world is not yet a perfect place, but we can continue to strive for change. In the words of King, *"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."* (Staff Editorial – UNL Daily Nebraskan)

Chadron

Chadron State College students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in a March up Main Street as an opener to the day's events. Following the March participants were invited to the Student Center to hear excerpts from King's speeches and for refreshments. A vigil of glow sticks concluded the day's events at the Student Center.

Hastings

Hastings College MLK Day events were sponsored by the Hastings College Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, the Multicultural Student Union and French Memorial Chapel.

A worship service was held in the French Memorial Chapel. The service was an ecumenical celebration, with the Rev. Dr. Wayne Reynolds and Professor Lee Wigert officiating. Music was provided by the Hastings High School Chamber Choir.

Diversity consultant Tuck Reed presented a program at the French Memorial Chapel. Reed has worked with at-risk youths for 27 years. He is a nationally recognized presenter, consultant and trainer on the topics of cultural diversity, cultural competency, effective communication and relationship development.

A volunteer fair was held for all students and the community in the Hazelrigg Student Union. Later in the afternoon a Cultural Simulation was held; designed to help participants consider differences and the effect norms, values and behavior have on cross-cultural relations. The day of service ended in packaging meals for Kids Against Hunger.

Kearney

University of Nebraska-Kearney recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day with events and guest speakers. The Ethnic Studies Program and the American Democracy Project sponsored three special events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Dr. Haroon Kharem and Dr. Noel Anderson, both of Brooklyn College of the CUNY system were special invited guests for the occasions. The events were held Monday evening with a vigil at the amphitheater.

On Tuesday evening Dr. Kharem and Dr. Anderson engaged in a discussion of "Education as Freedom," along with a panel of participants including Dr. Potthoff, Dr. Louishomme, Rashon Harvey, Barbara Johnson and guests.

Lincoln

A March from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to the state Capitol, ended in the Warner Chamber filling the balconies on either side, to hear King's message. The theme "Empower, Educate, Activate, Rise to Your Highest Point" was intended to honor both King and the rally's founder, Leola Bullock, who died in October 2010. The University also celebrated Dr. King's legacy with events throughout the week.

A group of self-taught street dancers from Lincoln High School performing as the Ground Zero Dance Troupe showed off their moves during the 16th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Rally.

Lincoln High School students volunteered for a "Day On -- Not a Day Off" at the Irving Recreation Center Monday afternoon, Jan. 17, 2011. The event was put on by Lincoln Youth Volunteers, in association with Volunteer Partners, and provided a free place for underprivileged kids to spend the Martin Luther King holiday having fun as well as getting a history lesson about King's contribution.

Omaha

On Monday, The City of Omaha and local colleges were among the groups planning events.

The life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated at the University of Nebraska-Omaha by the Service-Learning Academy who sponsored a day of service with the metro community to honor King's birthday. UNO students, faculty, staff and members of the community gathered at UNO's Thompson Alumni Center, to create quilts for [Project Harmony](#), and to create educational materials for students in Madagascar through [Conservation Fusion](#). Following the service projects, volunteers participated in a lunch and learn program reflecting on the messages of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.

A citywide celebration was held on the Creighton University campus with the theme: "Honoring the Legacy: Take Action Now!" featuring speaker Jeff Henderson and sponsored by the City of Omaha and Creighton University.

Metropolitan Community College held a "Day On, Not a Day Off" with students, staff and faculty volunteering at various sites, including: North and South Omaha Boys and Girls Clubs, Habitat Re-Store, Open Door Mission, Douglas County Community Health Center and the Kroc Center.

Wayne

Wayne State College celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. with an evening event. The Keynote speaker was Rob Sellers a 2003 Wayne State College graduate followed by a live performance from Bossphilly.