



Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

MLK

January 17, 2022

CELEBRATING MLK DAY – A NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Dear R&DE –

Monday, January 17th is national holiday and day of service honoring the lasting legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we take time to rest and reflect on the start of 2022, I would like us to take to heart the messages and teachings of Dr. King. Many know of his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, but many do not know the history of his life or how his family, education and solidarity with others shaped his leadership style and his conviction that all people should be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

Dr. King’s teachings and beliefs are the basis for key elements of R&DE’s Core Values. **Be Respectful, Communicate in an Honest & Open Manner, Lead by Example, Value & Embrace, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** are core values that draw inspiration from his teachings. Observing R&DE’s core values is one way we continue the MLK legacy.

Dr. King accomplished a great deal in his lifetime, but there remains work to be done and each of us has an opportunity to continue advancing his vision. Stanford’s **IDEAL Engage** initiative, R&DE’s comprehensive **DEI Educational Plan**, and other programs across campus are examples of the Stanford Community coming together to support diversity, equity and inclusion. The collaborative focus of these initiatives is for all of us to take part in constructive dialogue, learn from the lived experiences of each other and envision a brighter future for everyone.

Dr. King eloquently stated, *“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”* Let us embody the spirit of Dr. King and take this time to elevate one another with compassion and treat each other with respect. We are at our best when we are working together as a team, united by a mission to create a more perfect nation that embraces the gifts of diversity, champions the fruits of an equitable future and applauds the blessings of an inclusive mindset.

“The time is always right to do what is right” will continue to ring true, irrespective of the time and place. It is our collective duty to stand up as allies for our colleagues in the face of discrimination. Hatred, bigotry and intolerance have no place in R&DE or anywhere in Stanford University.

R&DE will be hosting a special event to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during Black History Month in February; however, there will be a number of events on campus in honor of Dr. King’s life this weekend and next week. Details for these events can be found in the attached list.

As always, I remain resolute and optimistic about our path forward and will continue to advocate for true equality for all students, faculty and staff. Please join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by continuing our work to ensure that the freedoms bestowed to all are enjoyed by all.

Warm regards,

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