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Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Ferris to observe Martin Luther King Day with Jan. 16-17 events

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University faculty, staff and students will observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through a series of events starting with the annual march on Jan. 16 and culminating in a tribute and celebration on Jan. 17.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. March begins at 2 p.m. at Merrill-Travis Hall and ends at the Rankin Center. Later on Sunday, the Societies of Minorities in Hospitality is sponsoring an MLK Dinner at 6 p.m. in Café Ferris.

"War and Rumors of Peace," an in-service presentation for faculty and staff, highlights activities on Monday. Stories, poems and other presentations will be moderated by David Pilgrim, professor of sociology, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Rankin Founder's Room.

Monday programming includes "The Game of Life" from noon-1 p.m. in the Rankin Whitney Young Room with participants interacting and role playing; "Multimedia Tunnel of Oppression" from 1-4 p.m. in the Rankin Constitution Room where participants are led through a room of vivid and shocking pictures, videos, and quotes dealing with oppression; "The Albatross" from 2-3 p.m. in Rankin-155 with an interactive experience of stereotypes, cultural perception, ritualism and sexism; and "Unveiling the Truth" from 3-4 p.m. in the Whitney Young Room where an interactive experience will be coordinated by staff from Carlisle, Helen Ferris and Masselink Halls. There is also a 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament in the Student Recreation Center at noon.

The observance closes with the Student Tribute/Celebration from 6-7 p.m. in the Rankin Dome Room featuring readings of poems and writings, acts and a performance by the FSU Gospel Choir, followed by "The Meeting," a depiction of Martin Luther King, Jr. meeting Malcolm X, at 7 p.m. in the Dome Room.

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