



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov
<http://www.ogs.ny.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 17, 2014

**LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALBANY ON JANUARY 20**

RoAnn Destito, Office of General Services Commissioner today announced an observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on January 20, 2014 at 10 a.m. in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The public is invited to attend the free program in celebration of the 85th anniversary of Dr. King's birth.

"Governor Cuomo is proud that we are able to continue this important New York State tradition here at the Empire State Plaza," Destito said. "The life and work of Dr. King and his vision for nonviolence continues to resonate throughout the state as well as globally. His message is as relevant today as it was when he led the cause for equal rights."

Penelope Andrews, president and dean of the Albany Law School will present a special tribute to Nelson Mandela. Andrews, the first female president of the school, was born and raised in South Africa. An annual award in her name—The Penelope E. Andrews Human Rights Award—was inaugurated in 2005 at the South African law school of University of KwaZulu-Natal. Along with numerous other awards, she holds a "Women of South Africa Achievement Award," as well as Albany Law's Kate Stoneman Award, which she received in 2002. She has published extensively on topics centered on gender and racial equality, South African legal issues, Australian legal issues, and international justice.

The Rev. Nicholas Stuart Richards, Assistant Minister of Global Outreach at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Richards is also Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA.

Doors will open at 9 a.m., and starting at 9:15 a.m. there will be a musical prelude performed by the Capital District Community Voice of Praise. The formal program will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

The event will include a number of theatrical and musical tributes to Dr. King from local and regional performers.

The program will be televised live statewide with the assistance of the New York State Media Services Center, Time Warner Cable, Mid-Hudson Cable, and CUNY-TV.

Following the formal program, the City of Albany “Beloved Community March” will begin at the Plaza Concourse entrance on Madison Avenue. The march will conclude at the King Monument in Lincoln Park with a wreath laying ceremony.

There are a number of additional activities taking place on the Empire State Plaza concourse including:

Dr. King Memorial Exhibit, Concourse, Empire State Plaza

- Empire State “Be A King” Volunteer Fair
- *Kids for Dr. King* Showcase
- Empire State Dr. King Quilts Display
- Dr. King Statewide Children’s Art and Essay Display
- Commemorative Dr. King Birthday Cupcakes

To honor Dr. King’s message throughout the year, a number of events are held to remind people of his vision for the community. These include a December food drive, an April career fair; and a literacy drive to collect books for schoolchildren statewide.

More information is available online at www.nyking.org.

###