

MLK in Black and White Event Planned at SWOSU

01.04.2007

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students are planning a special luncheon in honor of Martin Luther King, and the students are inviting area residents to attend the second annual celebration of the life and works of Dr. King on the SWOSU campus.

Martin Luther King in Black and White is planned for Monday, January 15, at 11:30 a.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom on the Weatherford campus. The event will focus on the positive effects of King's work on the lives and lifestyles of blacks and whites alike.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and available through the SWOSU Dean of Students Office in Room 214 of the Stafford Center. Tickets must be purchased prior to the event. Additional ticket information is available by calling 580.774.3767 or 580.774.7153.

SWOSU students, faculty, staff and administrators are welcome to attend the luncheon free of charge but only if they pre-register with the Dean of Students office.

At the luncheon, winners of art and essay competitions will be recognized. Over 100 students entered the MLK in Black & White competitions involving five age groups in the art competition and three divisions in the essay competition. Three Weatherford youngsters—Braden Hartsell, John Grunewald and Grant Schamburg—will be reading their essays at the luncheon.

Also at the luncheon, various questions will be discussed at each table. Cindy Dougherty, dean of students at SWOSU, said designated table hosts will lead enlightening sharing and discussions over Dr. King's work.

"We urge everyone to wear black and white that day in honor of Dr. King," said event chairperson Antoinette Smith. "We also encourage those who are unable to attend the event to join us in wearing black and white attire on January 15."

The event is being sponsored by the SWOSU Collegiate Activities Board, Student Government Association, Black Student Association and the Student Oklahoma Education Association.

The following questions will be discussed at the various tables at the event:

- Discuss something Dr. King did or said which helped people of all ethnicities and races.
- What is your best Dr. King memory? Story? Speech? Anecdote?
- What was Dr. King's main passion as you understand it? What is the source of your passion for equality and how can we transfer that passion to the entire community?
- Do we encourage peace and unity among all peoples in our community? Why is it important? How else might we?
- As a local society, are we passively accepting evil and injustice today? If not how do you know? If so, where and how and why? How can we get people actively engaged in promoting justice?

- In the spirit of Dr. King's words, what are you doing for others as one of the stewards of the City of Weatherford?
- Dr. King called for us to promote service, a graceful heart and love. Do we? How? How else can we?
- Do you believe that Dr. King's dream of a non-judgmental society has been reached? If not, what can be done to make it happen?
- Weatherford/Custer County is perceived to be a wealthy county by some. However, there are many indigent people for whom transportation and medical care are a challenge. What are we doing to ensure equal access to mobility and health care?