



Atlanta, GA - The King Center has announced plans for the 2013 observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., beginning a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. "Remember! Celebrate! Act! King's Dream for Our World," is the theme for the birthday commemoration program which begins Friday, January 11, 2013 and continues through the MLK holiday on January 21. All events, except the Annual Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner, are free of charge.

"We will present an inspiring, educational and multi-faceted program of events commemorating the 84th anniversary of the birthday of my father, Martin Luther King, Jr.," said King Center CEO, Elder Bernice A. King, in announcing the 10-day observance. "Our program will kick off the golden anniversary commemoration of the "I Have a Dream" speech, and will help launch our mobilization to promote greater unity of all Americans and people all over the world in the spirit of his dream," she continued.

A highlight of the annual program, the Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Atlanta's Hyatt Regency Hotel Centennial Ballroom, will embrace the spirit of Dr. King's dream by honoring Bangladeshi Economist Muhammad Yunus, 'father of micro-credit,' founder of the Grameen Bank and recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Peace. The Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner will also honor Aflac, Inc., with Chairman/CEO Daniel Amos accepting the award, in recognition of Aflac's extraordinary efforts to promote education, youth opportunities and economic development in diverse communities.

Dream Host Sponsors of the Salute to Greatness Dinner include: The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Target Corporation, Captain Planet Foundation and many others. The Salute to

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Greatness Dinner 'Afterglow' host is Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

The 2013 MLK Observance will provide a strong emphasis on youth leadership development and nonviolence education, through several events, including The King Youth Expo and Showcase, Jan. 12, 12:00 noon till 4:00 p.m., which will showcase young leaders who are demonstrating Dr. King's spirit, philosophy and teachings in their respective schools, homes, communities and places of worship and provide peer to peer training for other youth. The Expo will also feature an on-site "Tweet Suite," where young people can generate ideas for youth violence prevention and discuss strategies for creating the 'beloved Community' of Dr. King's Dream.

Other major events of the MLK Birthday observance include the State of Georgia Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council Program, Jan. 17; the Naturalization Ceremony of the U.S. Immigration Services, Jan. 18; the King Center Book Signing, Jan. 20; the King Holiday March and Rally, Jan. 20 and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Project on Jan. 21 - all day.

For more information about the MLK birthday observance program and the year-long commemoration of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, please contact 404-526-8900 or visit www.thekingcenter.org