From: Tom Sullivan
To: University of Vermont Community
Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Education & Learning Events

Dear Members of the UVM Community,

I want to encourage all members of our community to participate in UVM’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Education and Learning Events. This year’s celebration is particularly poignant given recent national events that I discussed in my memorandum on December 5, 2014 to the UVM Community. As our community continues to reflect on our role as an educational institution in engaging with these important topics, I believe that events such as these provide a vibrant and healthy forum to explore issues that are critical to our wellbeing as a community and our responsibility as citizens in a diverse world.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and related events will take place from January 14 – January 30, 2015. This year’s keynote presentation will feature Wil Haygood, NY Times best-selling author of The Butler: A Witness to History, Associate Producer of the award-winning motion picture The Butler, and acclaimed Washington Post reporter. The keynote presentation will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. The keynote presentation is a ticketed event. Tickets are free and available to UVM students, faculty & staff (1 ticket with UVM ID). Starting Friday, January 16, tickets are open to the general public (1 per person). To request a disability-related accommodation, please contact ACCESS at 802-656-7753.

I also would like to highlight and invite you to the panel discussion Giving Voice to the Pain: Black Lives Matter on January 22nd at 3:30 p.m. in the Ira Allen Chapel. This event is a follow up to our community’s December 9, 2014 gathering that we held after the Ferguson and Staten Island grand jury decisions. We are carrying our campus conversation into the New Year, as promised, to discuss our shared values, hopes and next steps.

Our other MLK events include a MLK Birthday Party, UVM Gives a Dollar fundraiser, film screenings of The Butler, a College of Medicine Health Equity Lecture, a viewing and discussion of the documentary Unnatural Causes: Place Matters, and a performance by the Terri Lyne Carrington Quartet at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts.

For information about all of our MLK Celebration, Education & Learning events, please visit: www.uvm.edu/~hrdma/mlk.

Thank you for considering each of these important campus and community events.