



January 17, 2022

Dear Lumberjacks,

Today, we honor the life, legacy, and mission of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who dedicated his life to the nonviolent but unending pursuit of civil rights. He lived in a time of significant social division and conflict—much like the time in which we are living today—and he never stopped working for a better world. I continue to be inspired by his incredible legacy.

Yes, the values professed, battles fought, and just causes advanced by Dr. King remain—more than half a century since his life was cut far too short by the forces he helped us learn to confront—a source of inspiration to all those who believe the best way to perfect our democracy is to act with conviction to advance the causes of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

That is why I am so proud to be part of the Northern Arizona University community of teachers, scholars, advocates, and activists—pride that I recognized early on, during my transition to our 17th presidency.

I remain committed to increasing our focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice at NAU, and as I have talked with stakeholders on- and off-campus, I know many of you share this vision and have already been involved in this crucial work. DEIJ is a driving force behind our [Strategic Roadmap](#) because we know people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences strengthen our community. Our commitment to our students also extends to those who work at NAU, and we are committed to increasing and supporting the diversity and success of our dedicated faculty and staff.

However, there is more work to do. Civil rights activist Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, encouraged Americans not to take a day off but to make this day of recognition, a “day on,” a day filled with service, activism, advocacy, and education. The best way to honor Dr. King’s legacy is to actively work to create a “just, humane, equitable, and peaceful nation and world.”

Today, we will celebrate, walk, and work in service. I hope you will [join us](#) and commit to spending the day in honor of Dr. King’s legacy of activism and commitment to civil rights and social justice.

Seating for the 10 a.m. in-person NAU MLK Celebration in the du Bois Ballroom is limited to ensure appropriate physical distancing, and masks are required. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participation via [livestream](#) is

encouraged.

Sincerely,



José Luis Cruz Rivera
President



Twitter



LinkedIn



Instagram