

WELLS COLLEGE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WITH SERIES OF EVENTS

The “Celebration of Community” will feature a keynote talk, art exhibit, documentary screening and discussion, as well as a community march inspired by the life and example of Dr. King.

AURORA, N.Y.— Wells College will present a series of events on Monday, Jan. 21, 2019 in celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The “Celebration of Community” will feature a community march, a documentary screening and discussion, as well as guest speakers. The celebration will serve as a conduit to connect and unite members of the Wells campus and the surrounding Finger Lakes communities in the peaceful, inclusive spirit of Dr. King.

The series of events on Monday, Jan. 21—the national Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday—begins with a screening of two chapters of “Eyes on the Prize,” the 1987 PBS documentary series that chronicles the struggles of the civil rights era. This will be followed by a discussion led by Michael E. Groth, professor of history and Frances Tarlton Farenthold Presidential Professor at Wells College. The screening and discussion will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Zabriskie Hall, room 106 on the Wells campus.

Immediately following the film and discussion, the Wells College Book Arts Center will offer a unique opportunity for community members to print posters with some of Dr. King’s best-known quotes. This will take place in Morgan Hall on the Wells campus from 1 to 3 p.m.

Community members are invited to bring their posters along to the Community March. Participants will line up at 3 p.m. in front of Macmillan Hall, and will sing songs from the civil rights era over the course of the mile-long march. Lyrics will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

From 4 to 5 p.m., a reception will be held in the Art Exhibit Room in Macmillan Hall. A welcome from Provost and Dean of the College Cindy J. Speaker will be followed by a brief presentation by the student winner of the College’s MLK Jr. media contest. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Barb E. Blom ’82, United Church of Christ (Aurora, N.Y.). Her topic is, “Martin Luther King Jr.: 50 Years Later.” When Martin Luther King led the country on a journey of self-discovery around civil rights as a moral and religious issue, Americans were largely viewed simply as black or white, rich or poor. Fifty years later we now live in country peopled by many cultures, religions, sexual orientations, different genders and colors. Rev. Blom will consider how MLK’s message, which was based upon ancient religious principles, resonates with us today.

In addition, an art installation, “MLK Bearing the Cross: Stations, Reflections and Prayers,” will be on view Wednesday, Jan. 16 to Friday, Jan. 18, in the main dining hall at Wells College.

This celebration was made possible by the Wells College offices of Campus Life for Diversity and Inclusion, along with the generous sponsorship of the following: the offices of Student Activities, Athletics, Alumni and Alumni Engagement, Book Arts Center, history department, Community Court, Staff Committee on Inclusion and Intercultural Excellence, and Campus Safety and Transportation. For further information please contact: Latesha Fussell, Director of Campus Life for Diversity and Inclusion, at lfussell@wells.edu or 315.364.3313