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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ECSU To Present 12-Part TV Series On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
(To Air All Day Monday on Channel 22)**

Willimantic, Conn. – This year, the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have been 74 years old had he lived. Sadly, Dr. King was assassinated 39 years after he was born. As part of its celebration of King's birthday, Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) will present a twelve (12)-part series looking back on the life and times of Dr. King, who is considered to be one of the greatest civil rights leaders of the past century.

The series was researched, written, and produced by Dwight Bachman, public relations officer at ECSU. **The series will air on Monday, January 20, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on Channel 22, ECSU' cable channel on Charter Cable communications. The television series will air on even hours all day Monday beginning at 12 a. m. -- 12 a.m., 2 a. m., 4 a. m., 6 a. m., 8 a. m., 10 a. m., 12 (noon) p. m., 2 p. m., 4 p. m., 6 p. m., 8 p. m., and 10 p. m.**

The series, series originally aired nationally and internationally in 1983 on the Stamford, CT-based Satellite News Channel (SNC). Bachman was a news producer for SNC at the time. Jose Grinan, anchorman for SNC, narrates the series. Nick Messina, director of media services at ECSU, and Aaron Schultz, multimedia assistant in the media services unit, recreated the series for broadcast on Eastern's cable channel.

“Dr. King, perhaps more than any other person, changed the course of history for not only black and white America, but the entire world,” said Bachman. “The series begins with a look at the forces that brought this humble Baptist preacher out of his pulpit and pushed him into the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. The initial force was the tired feet of a black woman named Rosa Parks, who decided she had finally had enough of racism, discrimination, and segregation, and insults.

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Surely, if this hard-working, African-American woman, who was simply resting and sitting on a bus, minding her own business, can stand up for justice, we can do the same. Current events indicate there are some people who would like to revert back to the old

Jim Crow. People of all races, religions, and creeds who think otherwise have to come together and say, “No more Jim Crow,” Bachman said.

The series begins by examining the role Dr. King played in desegregating the transit system of Montgomery, Alabama. It progresses to how King handled the many threats on his life, his extraordinary ability to articulate an idea, his response to liberals who said he was moving too fast, and to the numerous “Christian” clergymen who said police did the right thing by throwing Dr. King in jail.

“Many people pigeon hole Dr. King by citing his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the March on Washington in 1963. Those people don’t know Dr. King very well. Even more profound than that speech was his ‘Letter from a Birmingham Jail. He also was a strong advocate of affirmative action. In the series, the raw video of the debate between Dr. King and Black Power advocates Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown and the Nobel Prize for Peace awards ceremony reflect powerful moments in the life of Dr. King. Of course, his tragic death in Memphis and funeral in Atlanta is something most of us will ever forget. I hope every person who views this series will enjoy it and recommit to King’s idea of making this a more just world,” said Bachman.

Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the CSU System.

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