



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern to Present and Discuss 12-Part TV Series on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

### **Series Called “A Loving Gift to Future Generations”**

**Willimantic, CT** -- Had he lived, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have been 80 years old this year. As part of its celebration of King’s birthday, Eastern Connecticut State University will present “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: A Look Back,” a 12-part series looking back on the life and times of King, who is considered to be one of the greatest civil rights leaders of the past century.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: A Look Back” will be shown in its entirety at 5 p.m. on Jan. 27 in the Student Center Theatre. A discussion and refreshments will follow.

The series, which contains a greeting by Eastern President Elsa M. Nuñez, was researched, written and produced by Dwight Bachman, public relations officer at Eastern, and also aired all day on Jan. 19, the national celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on Channel 22, Eastern’s cable channel.

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. From there, it moves on to the role King played in desegregating the transit system of Montgomery, AL. It also reveals how King reacted to 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 Christian clergymen, who said he was a communist troublemaker who belonged in jail.

Ellen Brodie, professor and director of theatre at Eastern, described Eastern's continuous airing of the television series as "an on-going beacon lighting the memory of Dr. King and a loving gift to future generations."

Raouf Mama, professor of English at Eastern, called the series a "standard bearer of the ideals for which Martin Luther King, Jr. lived and died."

"Dr. King changed the course of history for the entire world," said Bachman. "In the series, the debate between Dr. King and Black Power advocates Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown, along with the Nobel Prize for Peace awards ceremony, are powerful moments in Dr. King's life. His tragic death in Memphis in 1968 is something most of us will never forget. I hope everyone will learn from this series and commit or recommit to Dr. King's idea of making this a more just world."

The series originally aired 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 Eastern, and Craig Naumec, multimedia production technician in Media Services, recreated the series for the Eastern Connecticut State University television broadcast.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.