



MEDIA RELEASE

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MLK Jr. Week Kicks Off at Highline College Community Invited to Attend Free Events

DES MOINES, Wash. —Highline College will hold its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week series of events Jan. 21-24.

Under the theme “Radical Vision 20/20: Reclaiming Our Past, Rewriting Our Present, Re-imagining Our Future,” MLK Jr. Week 2020 prompts presenters and attendees to address how they, especially during an election year, can be radical and righteous for those who feel hopeless and voiceless.

“In many ways, that’s where our ‘rewriting our present’ comes in,” Martinez said. “We want to be able to look back 20 years from now as we reclaim our past and be able to feel like we’ve done something right along the way, especially when it comes to social justice and social inequities.”

This year’s keynote will be Jenna Hanchard, a leader in culture and innovation at The Riveter. Hanchard, a former broadcast journalist for KING 5, will speak on “Courageous Stories in the Face of Resistance.”

“Her work is very built around community and being able to see people through various lenses,” Martinez said. “And based on our theme and because of her natural ability of storytelling, we’re really excited for her to dissect our theme through her own experiences.”

While all the speakers and presenters are special in their own right, Martinez highlighted Dr. Claudia Garcia Louis, who will be presenting on the black-white binary and how AfroLatinx persons could serve as the bridge between brownness and blackness. She also pointed out Hawaiian poet Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, who will discuss the role of indigenous values and practices in our contemporary social movements for justice and transformation, and Obasi Shaw, a rapper, writer and Google software engineer, who will lecture and perform with the topic “Seize Your Moment.”

“MLK Week has a rich history of bringing timely courageous conversations to the Highline College community, and our committee has been intentional in maintaining that legacy,” Martinez said.

MLK Week is sponsored by Center for Cultural & Inclusive Excellence, Center for Leadership & Service, Learning and Teaching Center, AANAPISI, Academic Affairs, Youth Reengagement and Success Program and Central Washington University- Des Moines.

[View the complete MLK Jr. Week schedule of events](#)

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Links within this release:

- <https://ccie.highline.edu/programs/mlk-week/>

Founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County, Highline College annually serves more than 16,500 students. With over 70 percent students of color, Highline is the most diverse higher education institution in the state. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer, professional-technical education, basic skills and applied bachelor's degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and former Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.