

We Are...Marshall!

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MLK Day Service Projects Aided by Grant

Marshall University has received a grant from the Corporation for National Service to help organize service projects on the Martin Luther King Holiday, according to Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, vice president for Multicultural Affairs and International Programs.

The university was one of 114 organizations and the only higher education institution in West Virginia selected in a national competition to receive a grant from CNS. Cleckley says the grants were awarded to groups for the purpose of organizing service projects that honor Dr. King's legacy and further his teachings and values by bringing people together to solve community problems.

"The King Holiday should be a day on, not a day off, a day of action, not apathy, a day of responding to community needs, not a day of rest and recreation," Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of CNS said.

As part of the Martin Luther King Holiday on January 15, MU is sponsoring a Youth Forum, led by Phillip Carter, professor of Social Work, a Mentor Literacy program conducted by Jacquelyn Hersman, director of the Upward Bound Program, and other activities which will continue to celebrate King's legacy throughout the year.

The Corporation for National Service has led efforts to fulfill the King Holiday and Service Act of 1994, which seeks to transform King's birthday into a day of service that reflects his life and teaching. Marshall was also the recipient of CNS grants in 1998 and 2000. The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change and Best Buy are sponsoring the day of service along with CNS.

Marshall's leadership role and activities provided through the university's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium, is enhanced by the Corporation for National Service grant, Cleckley says.