

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance

January 12, 2012

Good afternoon everyone.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students and administration of UAHuntsville, we welcome you to our annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program**.

It is always a privilege and honor to take the time to remember and reflect on the legacy and influence in all our lives of one of the great human beings of our time. There is an often cited quote by British statesman, Edmund Burke that reads, “*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing*”. How true.

Dr. King was a good, noble and principled man who chose not to stand by and do nothing and allow the injustices around him to flourish—he did something about it in a powerful way that has affected and continues to affect the lives of people worldwide. His dream has become a catalyst for change and a flame to light our way forward as we continue to live out the passion and scripted directional paths we must all take—and continue to take—to become a more just and equitable society. We must continue to change, adjust, be aware of and continue to dream as he did. Indeed, in our time, and even beyond our time, the business of the dream is unfinished. The baton of the “drum major for justice” has been passed, and we are the recipients who must continue the march.

Our theme this year is “**Let Freedom Ring—Beyond the Dream: The Unfinished Business of Dr. King’s Legacy**”. We ask that you join us as we carry out and carry on the unfinished business of the dream.