

LOUISBURG COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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LONGTIME FRANKLIN COUNTY EDUCATOR TO ADDRESS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CONVOCATION

Louisburg, NC — Louisburg College invites the public to join students, faculty, and staff in celebration of its first annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation. The event will be held on Tuesday, January 18, in the Frances Dickson Auditorium, at the Seby B. Jones Performing Arts Center, from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon. The featured speaker will be longtime Franklin County educator Robert Taylor. Mr. Taylor will address this year's theme of the program, "A Dream for Today." The program will also feature remarks by Louisburg College President Mark La Branche.

The College will mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday this year by dedicating its Spring Convocation to Dr. King's legacy. Spring Convocation commences the beginning of the Spring Semester and is one of several events each year where the College gathers together as a community. In keeping with longstanding academic traditions, pomp and circumstance are an important element of the Convocation, with faculty members donning their academic regalia and processing into the Dickson Auditorium.

Our speaker, Robert Taylor, earned his bachelor's degree in English and French from St. Augustine's College and a master's degree in English and African-American Studies from North Carolina Central University. He taught English and French at Bunn High School from 1967-1999, where he earned the *Teacher of the Year Award* and the *Terry Sanford Teaching Excellence Award*, among other honors. He also taught part-time at Louisburg College in the English Department from 1999-2003. His time at the College was particularly meaningful to Mr. Taylor because as a child growing up in the area, he dreamed of attending the College. Segregation prevented his Mr. Taylor from pursuing his education at Louisburg, so it was a joyous occasion when he was offered a teaching position there. He recalled in a letter to school officials several years later how he felt that day:

"I shall never forget just how I felt as I walked across the campus to the Administration building that (glorious) day to sign the contract. I also thought about how hurt my mother was about my not being able to attend the college of my dream. After having signed the contract, I immediately went to my mother's gravesite and "discoursed" with her and told her that God's gift had put my dream to shame. I only dreamed of attending the College and here I was being given the honor to teach there. Somehow, I had the sneaky feeling that Mom was somewhere peeping through the holes of heaven."

For further information about Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation, please contact Amy McManus, Director of Marketing and Communications: 919.497.3330 or amcmanus@louisburg.edu.

Related by faith to The United Methodist Church, Louisburg College is committed to offering a supportive community in which young men and women mature intellectually, culturally, socially, and spiritually. As a two-year residential institution, we provide a bridge for students to make a successful transition from high school to senior colleges and universities.

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