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Date: Thu, 14 Dec 2000 14:40:00 -0600
To: scass@truman.edu
From: VPAA <vpaa@truman.edu>
Subject: January Conference and Martin Luther Day activities
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Letter for VPAA RE: January Conference Day and MLK / "A Day of Service"

December 14, 2000

Dear Colleague:

I have two important items of information that I would like to pass on to you in anticipation of the beginning of next semester.

As I mentioned in my September campus letter, we have been at work planning our first ever January Conference. In that letter I mentioned that we were designing this event in a manner different from that of our Summer Planning and Assessment Workshop. Although we are still finalizing details for this January 24th event, I am pleased to tell you that Dr. Peter Ewell, noted authority on higher education, and Dr. Kayla Stroup, Missouri's Commissioner for Higher Education, have agreed to participate in our Conference. Both of these experts will speak with us about the future of higher education, both at the national and state level, and about implications that the future might hold for Truman. We have organized the conference around the theme "Strengthening Our Liberal Arts Culture: Liberally Educating Students for the 21st Century." We have other invitations out for Conference participants which are not finalized at this time. Our conference will include concurrent sessions for faculty, staff and students. You will be receiving more complete information about the January Conference at the beginning of the Spring Semester. As approved by our Faculty Senate and Board of Governors, no classes are scheduled from 7:30 am through 5:30 pm on January 24th (evening classes will meet). No other activities will be scheduled to conflict with the January Conference so that everyone can participate.

The second item of importance relates to Martin Luther King, Jr. and our campus celebration of his birthday in January. I have pasted below information that I hope you might announce to your classes during the first week of the Spring Semester.

Truman State University has won a grant from the Corporation for Public Service to support a project titled "A Day of Service At Truman State." The project is designed to celebrate the work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by encouraging people to dedicate some time on Dr. King's birthday to service activities. We are recruiting Truman students, staff, and faculty to participate in this day of service and there are a variety of ways individuals may do this.

Individuals interested in working with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity are invited to assist in the construction of one or more sheds, which will be the first step in the construction of some new homes. Volunteers are also needed to clean out and organize an existing shed. This work will be done on January 15. Interested persons should contact:

Jan Grow (e-mail: jgrow@truman.edu)

Karen Keck (e-mail: kkeck@truman.edu)

Individuals interested in volunteering in the local Kirksville schools are needed to read books to children and help them understand the significance of MLK Day. These activities will be done on Friday, January 12 from either 10:00-12:00 a.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m. Interested persons should contact:

Donna Rhinesmith (e-mail: ed11@truman.edu)

Individuals interested in volunteering some time at the Community Action Head Start Program (working with young children) are needed to read books and help out with other classroom activities. Volunteers must commit to a 1 ½ hour block of time (either 9:30-11:00 or 1:00-2:30) on Tuesday, January 16 or Wednesday, January 17. Interested persons should contact:

Bertha Thomas (e-mail: bthomas@truman.edu)

Individuals are also needed to volunteer in local nursing homes. Volunteers will assist residents with letter writing, visit with residents regarding MLK Day, and perform other tasks. Volunteers are needed on January 15 and January 20. Interested persons should contact:

Linda Colton (e-mail: lcolton@truman.edu)

Pat Smiser (e-mail: psmiser@truman.edu)

Rolena Hadwiger (y338@truman.edu)

The Spring semester promises to be an eventful one. I hope you have a productive and enjoyable break.

Sincerely,

Garry