The theme for the 2016 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week (Jan. 18-22), “The Fight for Social Justice: ‘A 1000 Mile Journey’”, is inspired by Dr. King who took his Civil Rights struggle to Chicago in 1966 to protest housing segregation. 2016 Rev. Protests led to a march of about 700 people in Marquette Park. In 2015, planning was facilitated by the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL) and included student participation for the first time.

Planning for 2016 was placed under the helm of the Center for Black Studies (CBS) under the direction of Regina Curry, S-Plan Coordinator. The initiative is a collaborative effort that includes faculty, staff, students, community partners, and alumni:

Center for Black Studies, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Center, Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, Division of Academic Affairs, Office of Community Affairs, Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, Office of the President, Provost, Chief Diversity Officer, Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities, Student Involvement and Leadership Development, Black Faculty and Staff Association, Office of Student Academic Success, Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy, O.B.E.A. Women of SAAS, Alpha Phi Alpha, Black Graduate Student Association, Black Male Initiative, African Student Alliance, and M.O.V.E. and the DeKalb Public Library

Each year, the Steering Committee develops events to honor Dr. King because his story continues to inspire people to want to live in a world in which justice is available to all people. This year, the committee will retain the focus and momentum of last year. Students helped plan events, which resulted in several new programs and a shift to a more celebratory focus of Dr. King’s life and legacy. Community service opportunities are available locally and in Chicago throughout the academic year.

During this time when the new year brings hope for new beginnings and resolutions to do better, it is difficult to come to grips with the tragic loss of Quintonio LeGrier.

Quintonio, a student on our campus this past semester, was shot and killed during an incident with Chicago police the morning after Christmas. I cannot imagine the pain and sadness experienced by his family and friends, a group that includes many of our students. The NIU community and I mourn with them.

The death of Quintonio and others lost to violence in Chicago and across our nation speaks to the need to mobilize communities around solutions that will make a difference. Toward that end, I am proud of the several members of our Huskie family who participated in a New Year’s Eve peace march in Chicago organized by Father Michael Pfleger.

As we return to work and to classes, let us come together as a community to support one another. I urge all students, faculty and staff who are grieving to take advantage of the counseling services provided on our campus. NIU staff members are here to support you...

President Doug Baker

See full write-up at
http://www.niu.edu/2016/01/12/president-baker-reflects-university-community-on-quintonio-legrier
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Celebration Week Events: January 18 – 22, 2016

–Community Engagement Event: January 18th, 9 – 1 pm, DeKalb Public Library

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, in collaboration with the DeKalb Public Library and Black Male Initiative (BMI), will hold a Service Project as part of the inaugural event of the MLK Celebration Week and grand opening of the new addition to the old library. The Service Project will feature book readings to the younger children and will include arts and crafts for children of all ages. There will also be a panel where leaders from various faith organizations will discuss peace and inclusion as envisioned by Dr. King.

The library opening dedication will begin at 9:00 am (Rep. Pritchard, Mayor Rey, Don McKay, Doug Moeller, Dan Kenney. Keynote Rev. Leroy Mitchell). The Service Project, Read to a Huskie, will begin at 10:00 a.m. The panel discussion will begin at 11:00 am Steve Roman mediating (Pastor Joe Mitchell, Dan Kenney, TBA). Children’s Arts & Craft, 11:00 – 1:00 pm. The DeKalb Public Library is located at 309 Oak Street.

–Memorial March and Think Tank: January 19th, 6 pm, Starts at Stevenson North

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial March begin at Stevenson residence halls at 6 pm. The March is a demonstration of the continued struggle for equality, inclusion, and social justice and will honor students we have lost over the past year. It will end at the MLK Commons. After the March, students will lead a Think Tank.

The theme for this year’s Think Tank, “Justice or Else,” is centered on social activism and the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March. Students will host a discussion on how we can apply social justice at NIU and in the DeKalb community. Hot chocolate will be provided and the Think Tank will begin at 7 pm in the Holmes Student Center – Duke Ellington Ballroom.

–Community Service Opportunity: January 20th, 9-5 pm, Grace Place Campus Ministry

In service to our fellow Huskies who are in need, we are requesting members of the NIU community, as well as the DeKalb County community, donate canned and other nonperishable food items to the Huskie Food Pantry.

Drop off items from 9-5 pm inside Grace Place Campus Ministry located at 401 Normal Road, DeKalb
Oratorical Competition: January 21st, 7pm, HSC – Duke Ellington Ballroom

Students from various organizations will participate in an Oratorical Competition. The students will recite speeches, poetry and prose from the vast repertoire of Dr. King’s collection and their own original works. The purpose of the competition is to remind us of the importance of Dr. King’s words and his commitment to equality.

Come out and support NIU student performers in a friendly competition at 7 pm in the Holmes Student Center – Duke Ellington Ballroom. Top performers will be awarded scholarships.

Presidential Breakfast & Awards Ceremony: January 22nd, 9 am - Duke Ellington Ballroom

Once again, Northern Illinois University (NIU) will be hosting its annual culminating event for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week with the NIU Presidential Breakfast & Awards Ceremony. We will reflect on the importance of inclusion and diversity, community service, civic reflection, and social justice for all. Dorothy Wright Tillman, mother, Civil Rights activist, author, and radio host, will be the keynote speaker. Mrs. Sarah Cheatham, Chicago community member and social justice activist, will provide words of reflection. Awards for Outstanding Community Service, Communiversity Leadership, and P.E.A.C.E. will also be presented. We hope you will join us as we continue on the thousand mile journey for social justice.

The NIU campus, community and alumni are invited, 9:00am in the Duke Ellington Ballroom in the Holmes Student Center. The event is free of charge and open to the public. Please RSVP at https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_7PT1niQMbvLcHOJ

For additional information, please contact the Center for Black Studies at 815-753-1709 or visit the Center’s website at http://www.niu.edu/blackstudies/index.shtml

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Center for Black Studies has scheduled a full slate of events for Black History Month. The theme for this year is New Age of Resistance: Respecting our History, Defining our Future. Join us for The Black History Month Ancestral Opening Ceremony on February 1st in the Holmes Student Center, Duke Ellington Ballroom at 6 pm.

The themes of culture, unity and responsibility inspire all Black Heritage activities, including a month-long recognition of American Heart Month and the American Heart Association. The color red will be worn on February 1st to symbolize the blood of our ancestors and to focus attention on heart disease, one of the leading causes of death among African Americans. Events are free and open to the public and with OneCard.

CHECK OUT THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND CALENDAR AT http://www.cbs.niu.edu/blackstudies/ or log onto to Huskie Link/CBS
CBS STAFF

CBS – WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO…

Dr. Joy Coates, Acting Director
✓ Advisor, Black Studies Minor
✓ Advisor, Black Graduate Student Association
✓ Mentor, CONNECT

Ms. Regina Curry, Succeed & Succeed Plan (S-Plan) Coordinator
✓ Coordinator, Succeed & Succeed Plan (S-Plan)
✓ Advisor, John Henrik Clarke Honor Society
✓ Chair, Black History Month Steering Committee
✓ Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee

Mr. Derrick Smith, Academic Counselor
✓ Coordinator, African American Mentoring Program (AAMP)
✓ Advisor, Black Student Union
✓ Executive Committee, Black History Month Steering Committee

Mr. Don Bramlett, Graduation Specialist
✓ Advisor, Black Male Initiative (BMI)
✓ Advisor, Supporting Opportunities for Latinos (SOL)
✓ Advisor, Latino Student Alliance (LSA)

Mrs. Crystal Slaughter, Office Support Specialist