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News Release

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Congressman Carson to keynote MLK celebration at IU Kokomo

KOKOMO, Ind. — Indiana University Kokomo and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will host a community wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 12, in Kresge Auditorium.

U.S. Rep. André Carson will be keynote speaker at the celebration, which is free and open to the public. Information also will be presented on efforts to build a monument to honor King in Kokomo.

“The event is designed to pay tribute to Dr. King’s lifetime commitment to serving others, so we adopted the theme ‘Timeless Service’,” said Juanita Martin-Davis, event chairwoman. “We want to honor the man (King) as well as educate and raise awareness of this pivotal time period in our nation’s history.”

Efforts to build a monument in honor of Dr. King in Kokomo were announced in August 2013 by the Kokomo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. The City of Kokomo donated property at Apperson Way and LaFountain Street for the monument, which will include a granite wall as a backdrop to a statue of Dr. King carved from Indiana limestone.

“The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. monument for Kokomo will serve as a symbol of inspiration for human rights and civil rights history for generations to come,” said Nanette Bowling, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission general chairwoman. “Our goal is to raise \$150,000 using a fast track campaign that will end on April 4, the day he was assassinated.”

A native of Indianapolis, Carson, 39, is the grandson of the late and former Rep. Julia Carson. After her death in December 2007, Carson was elected to complete her term in a special election in March 2008, and then was elected to his first full term in the November 2008 election. He is now serving his third full term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Carson earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Concordia University in Wisconsin and a master of business management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Omicron Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. organizes a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. annually as part of its community service outreach initiatives.

IU Kokomo is a regional campus of Indiana University, serving approximately 4,200 students.

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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