

Overcoming the Pandemic of Racism

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Breakfast 2022

Friday, January 14, 2022 | 9-11 AM



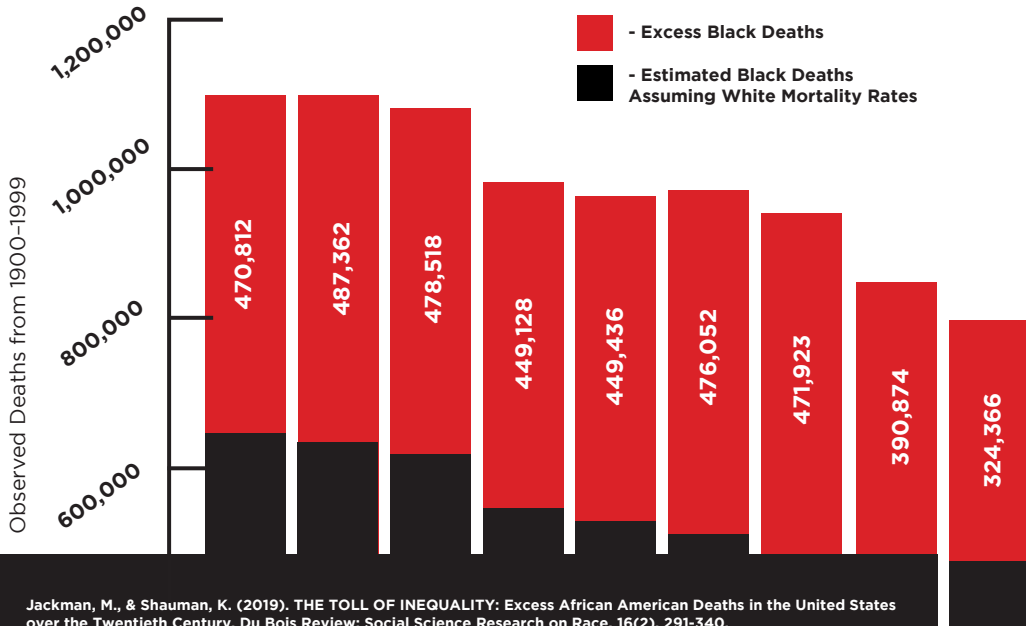
Overcoming the Pandemic of Racism

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

During this pandemic we have witnessed the convergence of two public health crises: COVID-19 and the continuing impacts of institutionalized racism. Structural inequities are intertwined with our nation’s history, and show up in a variety of ways.

People of color have long had to endure the legacy of housing discrimination, disinvestment in their communities, more exposure to environmental toxins, and lack of economic opportunities. These structural inequities have led to poorer health outcomes — including a higher incidence of chronic diseases — for people of color. Racist structural inequities are an ongoing public health crisis that demands immediate attention.



A History of our Celebration

Karen J. Thorpe, Ph.D., then-assistant vice president of student affairs, initiated the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Breakfast on Jan. 15, 1992. At the first MLK Peace Breakfast about 50 people from the campus and Denver community gathered in the old Student Union (now Plaza Building) to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion now serves as the official sponsor.

Committee

Lizbeth Guerra, Kathleen Jewby, Donelyn Jones, Kiran Majid, Roy Montgomery, Cory Phare, Julie Sharer-Price, Jeremy VanHooser, Kimberly Williams, Lorri Wray

Special thanks to all those people who have made this event successful.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion for sponsoring the event every year.

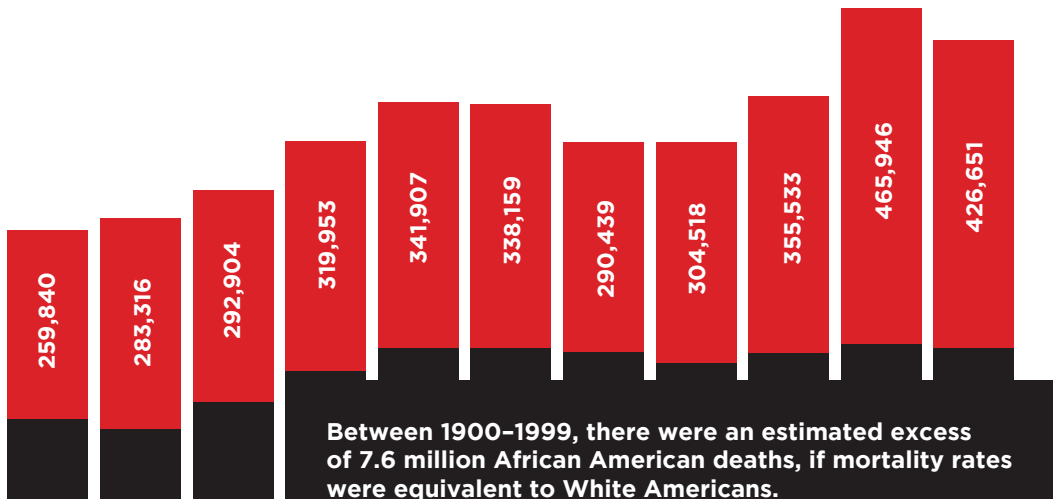
Kiran Majid at Met Media for bringing the theme to life graphically.

David Sharman for the virtual production of the event.

Amanda Schwengel for producing the videos of the awardees.

Serendipity Catering for the food and beverages as well as their wonderful staff.

Morrell Printing and Halo Branded Solutions for printing event materials.



Schedule of Events

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

X Johnson, Student, MSU Denver

University Remarks

Keynote

Jeff S. Fard, Founder,
Brother Jeff's Cultural Center

MLK Peace Awards

Katia Campbell, Ph.D.

Ally Garcia, Ed.D.

Rosalind "Bee" Harris

Soj Sirivanchai

Closing Remarks

We Shall Overcome

Denver Marade

MSU Denver will participate in the Denver Marade on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, starting in City Park. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the marching portion will begin at 10:45 a.m. MSU Denver is a banner-carrying participant and will form our group at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in marching with MSU Denver, please visit the MLK website for additional details.

www.msudenver.edu/mlk-breakfast

Keynote | brother jeff

A native of Northeast Denver, Jeff S. Fard, better known as brother jeff, is a multimedia journalist, historian and community organizer who lectures nationally speaking to youth, students, social organizations, and professionals about subjects including cultural identity and history, diversity, self-empowerment, community building, economic development, health disparities, and the uniting power of art. In 1994 he founded brother jeff's Cultural Center—located in the historic Five Points District in Northeast Denver—a space committed to fostering growth, strength, and voice in the community. He is also the publisher and editor of the award-winning monthly publication, 5 POINTS NEWS.

In 2000, brother jeff began organizing nationally to help reduce the disproportionate HIV and AIDS rate in the African American Community. served as an advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and several other governmental and non-governmental organizations committed to eliminating HIV.

His current work includes gun violence reduction, mental health interventions and community mentor development.

Brother jeff is a board member for the Center for African American Health and is a past board chair of the Denver Foundation, which is the nation's oldest and Colorado's largest community foundation. He has received numerous honors for his work including being recognized by the late Steven Graham and the Community Resource Center as a "Legendary Leader of Colorado's Nonprofit Sector."



Awardees

Katia Campbell, Ph.D. | Faculty

Katia Campbell earned her doctoral degree from the University of Denver in Human Communication Studies with an emphasis in Rhetoric, Diversity, and Media Studies. Her scholarship, service activities, and teaching focus on rhetorical theory and criticism, free speech, cultural representation, popular media, and critical pedagogy.

Dr. Campbell founded the Dialogues Across Difference program at MSU Denver and regularly facilitates workshops on Communication and Diversity, Media Literacy, Free Speech, Public Speaking, and Dialogic Ethics. Dr. Campbell's frequent speaking engagements and webinars are on topics such as the ethical challenges of hate speech within the U.S. public sphere, and the intersections of free speech and academic freedom on college campuses. Dr. Campbell currently serves as MSU Denver Faculty Senate President.



Rosalind “Bee” Harris | Community

Rosalind J. Harris also referred to and known as Bee, is the owner, publisher and art director of the Denver Urban Spectrum newspaper. She has been “spreading the news about people of color,” since 1987, celebrating 34 years in April 2021.

As an active member in the community, Bee is politically connected and has volunteered on campaigns locally and nationally. Over the years, with memberships and affiliations with diverse businesses and organizations, she has served on many boards as a director and as an advisor.

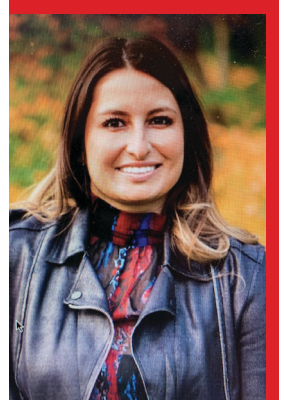
Bee has received numerous awards, including being selected as a 2020 inductee for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame which will be celebrated in March 2022.



Ally Garcia, Ed.D. | Staff

Ally Garcia received her Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Denver. She currently serves as Assistant Dean/Director of TRIO Student Support Services at MSU Denver. Dr. Garcia has been a research assistant for Alliance for PROS based at Florida State University. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Denver where she focuses on issues regarding access, retention, racial justice, power, and equity.

Dr. Garcia has facilitated numerous workshops pertaining to race, diversity, and equity issues. She is currently engaged in research regarding critical policy analysis in higher education. She considers herself a critical race feminist practitioner/scholar. She won an early career award from ASPIRE in 2016 and an Inclusive Excellence award from the University of Denver in 2019. Her dissertation is entitled, A Policy Discourse Analysis of Disciplinary Transcript Notation in Cases of Sexual Assault on College Campuses.



Soj Sirivancha | Staff

Soj Sirivanchai completed their Bachelor of Science in Biology, minoring in Chemistry, from the University of Colorado, Denver. They then went on to complete a Master of Science in Microbiology from the University of California, Berkeley.

As the first person in their family to attend college, Soj is passionate about increasing access to higher education for historically underrepresented folks. Soj hopes to assist students in finding their own empowerment through holistic advising, community building, and advocacy.



We Shall Overcome (lyrics)

“We Shall Overcome” is generally associated with the African American civil rights movement (1955–68) as a protest song and anthem of the movement. However the song has deep roots. The lyrics are derived from a gospel song, “I’ll Overcome Some Day,” by Charles Tindley.

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS:

Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We shall all be free
We shall all be free
We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
CHORUS