

Good evening County Executive - Dr. Calvin Ball and the rest of the diaz...I am Dr. Diane B. Martin

I am interested in serving on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. While employed with Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) at the Central Office, I had the opportunity and privilege to supervise the Black Student Achievement Program and the opportunity to establish, develop and build the Hispanic Student Achievement Program as well as the Office of International Student Services. In that capacity as Director, I developed a team that was truly engaged, knowledgeable, and passionate about the mission of increasing academic achievement, coordinating activities to celebrate the students who showed improvement in their academic growth, improved attendance and growth in the area of social development. Ultimately, I supported the growth of students who became college and career ready.

As Director with HCPSS, it was one of my duties to work collaboratively with the Council of Elders, the African American Community Roundtable, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, the Pan Hellenic Council, other sororities, fraternities, as well as faith-based institutions, and other civic organizations. We knew it was important to build relationships, and to ensure there was a broad outreach to the greater community. Our team worked with the community to create the Council of Elders' celebration, celebrations with the Board of Connexiones, as well as celebrations with Koreans and many other minority groups.

As you all know, diversity is an advantage; with careful blending -the collective knowledge and learning from one another will surely make the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, an even more agile, mission focused, and impactful to the community that we serve together. My learning at Howard County Public School System as the Director of Community Outreach and Engagement will support me in bringing an added value that will be noticed as benefits to the Commission.

I want to serve on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, so I can support the encouragement and coordination of appropriate activities and ceremonies throughout Howard County to honor the birthday, ideals and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, I understand the Commission provides assistance to local government and private organizations with respect to the observance of the holiday honoring the birthday of the late Dr. King.

I would be honored to serve on the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission and contribute to continuing those noble efforts of ensuring our youth are knowledgeable and expressive about the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as the Civil Rights Movement and its impact on our county, our state and our country.

Thank you!