



Winter 2-2-2004

Martin Luther King III to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner

Sherry Wallace
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Wallace, Sherry, "Martin Luther King III to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner" (2004). *News and Events*. 5731.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5731>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Feb. 2, 2004

Contact: Sherry Wallace (309) 556-3181

Martin Luther King III to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-Martin Luther King III, the first son of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., longtime champion of civil rights, school desegregation, and non-violent social change, will speak at Illinois Wesleyan University's annual Soul Food Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 15. The event will be held in the Performance Gym of the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington.

Sponsored by the Issues and Programming Commission of Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate, the Soul Food Dinner is one of several scheduled events taking place at the university during national Black History Month.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and King III will speak at 7:30 p.m. A question and answer session will follow at 8 p.m.

Tickets, which will go on sale Feb. 2, are \$5 for students, faculty, and staff and their families for the dinner and speech. For students, faculty and staff and their families attending only the speech, tickets are free of charge.

There will be a \$10 cost for the general public attending the dinner and speech and a \$5 cost for the speaker's presentation only.

To purchase tickets, call (309) 556-2663 and leave your name, telephone number, whether you will attend the dinner, speaker, or both, and the number of tickets you would like to purchase. Tickets also will be available at the Illinois Wesleyan Business Office, 1312 North Park St., Bloomington, during business hours, Monday -Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and at the door.

King III, like his late father, is a human rights advocate, community activist and a political leader. As a part of Dr. King's legacy, King III has worked hard to maintain equality and justice for people around the world, and according to his supporters, delivers a "poignant message of hope and responsibility" to audiences.

King III also devotes his time to the educational and skill development of youth in America. He founded the "King Summer Intern Program" that provides employment opportunities for high school students; "Hoops for health," a charity basketball game intended to increase public awareness of newborn babies who suffer the effects of substance abuse; and "A Call to Manhood," an annual event designed to unite young African-American males with positive adult role models.

In the 1970s, President Jimmy Carter asked King III to represent him at two official delegations to promote peace in foreign countries. In 1984, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, King III traveled to Africa on a fact-finding tour of five poverty-stricken nations. *Africa Initiative*, a program developed to end starvation in Africa, was a result of his tour.

In the 1980s, King III joined the effort to free the African political leader Nelson Mandela and, in the 1990s, he focused on moral and political concerns facing third-world

nations. King III became the fourth President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1997, an organization his father co-founded in 1957.

King III, the second eldest of four children, was born in October of 1957 in Montgomery, Ala. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., where he received a bachelor's degree in political science.

This is not the first time King III has visited the Illinois Wesleyan campus. In January of 1991, he was the guest speaker at the Soul Food Dinner. His sisters Bernice (Soul Food Dinner, January 1992) and Yolanda (Birthday Tribute and Fellowship Dinner, January 1997) have also brought their father's message of non-violent social change and social justice to Illinois Wesleyan.

Note to the News Media: King will be available to the media at a press conference at 5:30 p.m. in the North Classroom of the Shirk Center.