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Action Resource Center Presents Martin Luther King, Jr. Speakers

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Action Resource Center Presents Martin Luther King, Jr. Speakers

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University’s Action Resource Center will host a presentation in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., featuring keynote speaker John Kretzmann, as well as Alex Cardona and Rebecca Bliss on Monday, Jan. 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington). Kretzmann’s speech “Leading with our Strengths,” will be followed by Cardona and Bliss presenting ideas surrounding community development, particularly within the Latin-American culture. Following the speakers, State Farm Community Partnership interns will lead small group discussions. State Farm will also sponsor a coffee and cookie reception after the discussions.

The event is free and open to the public.

Kretzmann, is the co-director of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute, a research project of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University in Evanston, and has worked to develop community-oriented public policy at the national, state and local levels. He served as the chair of the Neighborhood Planning Committee in Chicago under Mayor Harold Washington and currently operates on several civic, community and foundation boards. He received a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University, a master’s in English literature from the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and a doctorate in sociology and urban affairs from Northwestern University.

Cardona serves as the Chair of the Hispanic Families Work Group (HFWG). He received a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, and works on community development and reinvestment for State Farm Insurance and State Farm Bank.

Bliss, a research fellow from the Illinois State University Stevenson Center for Applied Economic and Community Development, will speak alongside Cardona to reveal the HFWG findings from a year-long assessment of the Latino community within Bloomington-Normal.