



April 4, 2018

President's Waypoint: 50 years ago today...

Dear SBCC Community:

Fifty years ago today, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated outside his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. He was in Memphis supporting sanitation workers, who were on strike protesting poor working conditions and pay. For those of us who remember that night, his death is one of those powerful events forever seared into our memory. His murder came at a time of deep national tensions, when the divisions between us seemed insurmountable to overcome.

Many of us can remember exactly where we were and what we were doing the moment we heard the news - and the sense of deep sorrow knowing his powerful voice had been silenced.

Dr. King preached and practiced a nonviolent approach to injustice and was a preeminent leader in the movement against racism and inequality. This movement led to transformational change in our society. His 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech inspired (and continues to inspire) a vision of equality for our nation.

For us that have dedicated our careers to Community Colleges and the pursuit of a public education, his legacy and efforts have particular meaning. Our community college mission is deeply aligned with efforts to improve the quality of life and economic mobility of all people - regardless of their circumstances or background.

Today, I ask you to join me in a moment to remember Dr. King and his lasting legacy. At SBCC, we stand up for the same guiding principles that he fought for: social, racial and economic justice, equality for all, equity for all, and the belief that by working together we can achieve progress.

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Oslo, Norway, 1964.

Together forward,