I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your service, your celebration, and your contributions yesterday. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was a truly special occasion for our campus.

It started with an address during our volunteer breakfast from Dr. James Chaffers, recipient of the nation’s first professional Doctorate of Architecture degree and a senior design juror for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. We then shared with our community a corps of more than 100 volunteers providing service: cleaning at homeless shelters; building sheds for Habitat for Humanity; sorting food at pantries; and much more.

Our campus also stepped up to serve as a fun and educational site for children from the Boys & Girls Club, providing parents with a child care safety net on a day when many schools and social service agencies close, but many parents still work. The volunteer effort drew faculty, staff, and students from across campus to engage the children in learning about robotics, mindfulness, sports, intercultural understanding, and the power of an education – all while having a little fun.

To cap off a fulfilling day of service, we welcomed Nontombi Naomi Tutu to campus. Her message of continuing the struggle, setting our own path, supporting those who — despite criticism — continuing to fight for justice, and caring for each other were especially poignant in this time and in this place.

I encourage us all to continue our service throughout the year. As a reminder, the Red Cross office in Flint recently made a call for volunteers to assist in the water crisis. A volunteer reception center has been established for those wishing to assist with ongoing efforts to distribute water, water filters, replacement cartridges and water test kits to Flint residents. They can be reached at (810) 232-1401 and have orientation sessions later this week.

Thank you all for celebrating and honoring Dr. King’s life and legacy. I look
forward to continuing that work so that together, all of us can become all that we ought to be.

Sincerely,
Sue