



SACRAMENTO
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California State University, Sacramento
Emeritus Association

6000 J Street • Sacramento, CA 95819-6026
www.csus.edu/org/emeritus/association.htm

Dear President Gonzalez :

On behalf of the Sacramento State Emeritus Association, I write to commend you on your enthusiastic support for the forthcoming campus event commemorating the October 16, 1967 appearance on our campus of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. This was an event of critical importance to the history of our campus, marking as it most certainly did, the joining of our key educational enterprise with the larger world of ideas and social change represented by Dr. King.

Allow me a moment of personal reminiscence about that event. In August, 1967, I had arrived on campus as Dean of what was then the new School of Social Work at Sacramento State College. I had left a tenured professorship at the University of Chicago, motivated by the shining promise of California's innovative Master Plan for Higher Education, and all that meant for helping to build a School of Social Work in the Capital Campus. Just a summer earlier, I had been a leader in the welfare rights movement in Chicago, and had met with Dr. King and his leadership group on many occasions during their trying and historic Chicago Summer.

For me, Dr. King's campus speech represented a seamless continuation of a national movement to which I was deeply committed. As dean, I encouraged all of our students to attend—and most of them did.

Just six months later, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis. That event, too, was remembered on our campus with sadness and not a little despair.

Because history lends dignity and meaning to the lives we have chosen to pursue, I think I speak for many of us who were there in person in 1967 in thanking you for ensuring the success of the upcoming event.

Sincerely yours,

Alan D. Wade, Professor Emeritus
President, Emeritus Association