



**California State University, Sacramento**  
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October 16, 2007

Dear Friends:

I am very proud to welcome you to this commemoration of Martin Luther King's speech at what was then Sacramento State College 40 years ago. It was an auspicious occasion, a moment when this young campus captured a part of history. I am sure the 7,000 people who attended the speech have never forgotten it.

Dr. King's leadership has left an indelible mark on American society. He came to prominence at a time when the world seemed to be changing too rapidly and too fundamentally to comprehend. He helped us find our way with a message of nonviolence and tolerance to create a better nation. Through inspirational speeches at venues such as Sacramento State, he was able to inspire us and focus our energies to guarantee our civil rights and achieve social justice.

Forty years later, we find ourselves still struggling for equality, tolerance and mutual respect. Racial and other hate-based violence is still a part of our world, and Sacramento, unfortunately, is no exception. That is why today's activities are so important. There is much reflection, discussion and work to be done. I hope that today's event leads us closer to Dr. King's vision and helps bring his message to another generation of Sacramentans.

I want to thank the organizers of today's events, our community partners, the guest speakers and all who worked hard to make this happen. Without the efforts of so many people, this important dialogue would not have happened.

In recognition of the significance of this commemoration, the Faculty Senate has requested and I have agreed to designate today as a convocation day to allow the campus community to participate in today's event.

Thank you for being here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'G' at the end.

Alexander Gonzalez  
President

AG/jr