

# Juneteenth Statement

From the Desk of Dr. Marcellene Watson-Derbigny, Associate Vice President,  
Student Retention and Academic Success



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center is committed to promoting the cause of equity and justice in our communities. The Center has a top mission of advancing the success of students of African American heritage and strives to provide support that instills lifelong change through educational and personal empowerment that alters the course of the Black Community, creating the conditions for ongoing vibrancy and vitality.

Today, we come together to celebrate all that makes Juneteenth a special day in the nation. It is a time to reflect on our commitment to equity and to celebrate the rich diversity of our communities. Juneteenth this year also occurs at a time when we must continue the fight for equality and justice and to take up our mantle of liberation to ensure the success of future generations to come. The MLK Center is dedicated to this ongoing advancement of the Black Community and remains steadfast in its approach to uplift and uphold the values and ideals that our ancestors fought vehemently for to create a better world for all of us.

In a spirit of unity, we honor Juneteenth as a major marker in the cause for ongoing progress for a people who are strong and mighty in the land and who are still fighting today with a determined stance to achieve equity in the Black Community.