The State University
of New York

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2014

TO: SUNY Family

FROM: Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher

SUBJECT: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Volunteer Activities

I am proud to announce that SUNY is partnering with the Governor's Office, the Office of General Services, and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service to help facilitate and deepen community engagement and volunteerism for SUNY students, faculty, staff, alumni, and retirees across New York.

As both a kick-off and celebration of this new partnership, SUNY and the Commission will co-host a state-wide day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2014. Multiple volunteer projects will occur simultaneously in each region across the state, providing an opportunity for members of the SUNY family to join together in service, fostering vibrant communities. Attached you will find a list of volunteer opportunities by region. Each opportunity includes a project synopsis and contact and sign-up information.

In order to ensure the success of this day of service, I am asking you to share these opportunities widely and encourage all members of the SUNY family to volunteer. These projects are open to everyone in a given region, so please disseminate this information to ensure that students, faculty, and staff who are home for the holiday have the opportunity to volunteer close to their homes.

In addition, all New Yorkers are invited to participate in New York State Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance activities. These include the annual Statewide Food Drive, concluding on January 17, 2014. Since its inception 14 years ago, the Statewide Food Drive has collected more than 435,000 pounds of food and more than $82,000 in monetary contributions. In addition, the Martin Luther King Jr. Literacy Drive will run through March 14, 2014. The drive collects new or gently used books for distribution to students in Pre-K through 12th grade, as well as for after-school programs in the Albany, Buffalo, and New York City school districts. Some of these books will also be donated to area hospitals and shelters.

Please reach out to Elise Newkirk-Kotfila at elise.newkirk@suny.edu with any questions.