

**THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

# *Symposium*

*Rising from the Dark...  
To the Sunlit Path of Racial Justice*

**JANUARY 21-23 | 2008**

# *Rising from*

**Marshall University  
Multicultural Affairs  
Huntington, West Virginia**

# *the Dark*



**MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2008**  
**2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Focus on Youth Program**

Coordinator: Ronald Jones  
Senior Psychology,  
Student Government Association  
Marshall University

First Baptist Church  
801 Sixth Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701

The event will feature a brief presentation on excelling in academia and what it takes, to not only make it TO college, but to make it IN college. Also included in the event will be a how-to activity which will involve: "How to Finance Your Education" and self-advocacy (or the idea of self-determination).

Concluding this event will be a brief Question/Answer with African-American Marshall Students and Alumni.



**4:30 P.M.**

**TRADITIONAL MARCH LINEUP**

Begins at the First Baptist Church  
801 Sixth Avenue  
Huntington, WV

**4:45 P.M.**

**TRADITIONAL MARCH PROCESSION**

**Grand Marshal**

**Dr. Ken Hechler**, former W.Va. Secretary of State  
Ends at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church  
1647 Ninth Avenue  
Huntington, West Virginia

**6:00 P.M.**

**THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SYMPOSIUM MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church  
Presiding: Reverend Roy Terry, Pastor

Speaker: Dr. Patricia Kusimo  
Chief Executive Officer  
The West Virginia Center for  
Professional Development  
Charleston, WV



**PRESENTATION OF WINNERS  
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
AWARDS COMPETITION**

Sylvia Ridgeway, Retired Educator and  
Civil Rights Advocate, and member Fifteenth Annual  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium Planning Committee

Reception follows in Fellowship Hall



### **DR. PATRICIA KUSIMO**

Dr. Patricia Styles Kusimo is the chief executive officer of the West Virginia Center for Professional Development (WVCPD). This state agency works to ensure West Virginia educators have access to the professional development needed to improve student academic achievement in West Virginia classrooms.

Her commitment to educating children spans more than 25 years. During that time, Dr. Kusimo has been a classroom teacher, an associate college professor, an educational researcher, a business owner, an author and professional developer. When needed, she has worn the hats of community activist, impromptu legislative lobbyist, tutor, mentor and vocal advocate in order to improve the education of young people in West Virginia – especially African American and low income children.

Dr. Kusimo believes education is the great equalizer in offering hope for children regardless of race, socio-economic status or gender. She understands the role it plays in breaking generations of poverty and cycles of hopelessness that too many young people face.

*Dr. Patricia*

*Dr. Kusimo believes education is the great equalizer in offering hope for children regardless of race, socio-economic status or gender.*

As one of the founding members of MAACK (Maximizing the Achievement of African American Children in Kanawha County), Dr. Kusimo worked tirelessly to create a community-based coalition that would bring attention and resources to African American and low income student achievement. In 2004, Dr. Kusimo and this community group lobbied the legislature to dedicate money and resources to address this problem. This work led to the passage of House Bill 4669 – the state’s most progressive educational achievement mandate in years. As a result, the MAACK received the Living the Dream Service Award from the West Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. In 2006, she was awarded the NAACP Image Award for Education by the Charleston Branch of the organization for her years of service to the state’s children.

Before joining WVCPD, she was owner and president of PK Educational Enterprises, a consulting firm with clients throughout the east coast. She also served as one of three

co-chairs for Governor Joe Manchin, III’s education transition team. She is the co-author of the book, “It Takes a School”, Closing the Achievement Gap through Culturally Responsive Schools, as well as several reports and journal articles that have given much needed attention to academic achievement.

Dr. Kusimo graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Hampton University, a master’s degree in education from Pepperdine University and a doctoral degree in educational administration from Texas A&M University. She is the mother of two children, Olunbmi Kusimo, an assistant prosecutor for Kanawha County and Olufemi Kusimo, a junior at Washington and Lee University. Dr. Kusimo is also married to Reverend Joseph Kusimo, retired Dow engineer and current pastor of Christ Lee Church, Charleston, WV.

*Kusimo*



## **DR. KEN HECHLER**

### **FORMER W.VA. SECRETARY OF STATE**

Ken Hechler of Huntington and Charleston was born September 20, 1914. He earned his A.B. degree from Swarthmore College, and both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Mr. Hechler has taught at Columbia and Barnard colleges and taught at Marshall University in the Honors Program. Mr. Hechler served as a research assistant and director and special assistant to President Harry S. Truman. He served as a major in the U. S. Army, and was awarded the Bronze Star and five battle stars.

Dr. Hechler served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959 through 1977, and has the distinction of being the only member of Congress to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the historic Selma March in 1965. Mr. Hechler is author of several books and papers, including "The Bridge at Remagen". He was elected West Virginia Secretary of State in 1984, as was reelected in 1988, 1992, and 1996. In 2001, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission awarded Mr. Hechler with the Human Civil Rights Award, "for advocating social change in the pursuit of equality for others."

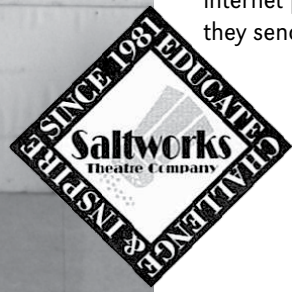


**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008**  
**10:00 A.M. TO NOON**  
**CYBER SLAM**

by the Saltworks Theatre Company of Pittsburgh, PA

The Joan C. Edwards Fine and Performing Arts Center  
Marshall University  
Huntington, WV

Cyber Slam addresses the potential dangers of electronic communication. We follow the story of five students and the decisions they make online that begins with a simple argument and escalates into destructive behavior. From people stealing identities to websites full of false information, your students will discover how damaging cyber bullying can be. In the midst of this, one girl realizes that her online "buddy" is a cyber stalker. The show is filled with practical methods for dealing with cyber bullies and internet predators, challenging the students to think before they send.



# **THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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AND THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION.



We thank the Fifteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium Planning Committee, sponsors, speakers, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition evaluation committee, students, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for their invaluable assistance in making this Symposium a success!

Maurice Cooley  
Interim Vice President, Marshall University  
Multicultural Affairs and Director,  
Center for African American Students Programs



*Back photo: Howard Sochurek/LIFE*