

**Press Release**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration in Glastonbury**

Join the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 15, 2023. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is sponsoring this town-wide event at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

The focus of the celebration will be on Health Disparities: the Racial, Economic, Cultural and Social Causes. Dr. King addressed this inequity in 1966, saying, *"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."*

The speakers include: Dr. David Williams, a professor at Harvard and an internationally recognized social scientist focused on social influences on health; and, Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette, Executive Vice President of Trust for American's Health, a health policy advocacy organization.

The program will also include vocal performances by the Glastonbury High School Concert Choir as well as a film on Dr. King's summer work in the tobacco fields of Simsbury when he was a student at Morehouse College. Several local organizations that provide healthcare support will disseminate resource materials and provide information on their important work. The celebration is intended to provide information on issues related to healthcare discrimination and also inspire attendees to service and action as a result.

This is a free event, open to all who seek to share in the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . Please visit our website at [www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org) or contact us by email at [glastonburymlkci@gmail.com](mailto:glastonburymlkci@gmail.com).

**David R. Williams** is a Professor of Public Health and chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is also a Professor of African and African American Studies and Sociology at Harvard University. Previously, he served 6 years on the faculty of Yale University and 14 at the University of Michigan. He holds an MPH from Loma Linda University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Williams is an internationally recognized social scientist focused on social influences on health. His research has enhanced our understanding of the ways in which health can be affected by socioeconomic status, race, stress, racism, health behavior and religious involvement. He is the author of more than 475 scientific papers and he has served on the editorial board of 12 scientific journals and as a reviewer for over 75 others. The Everyday Discrimination Scale that he developed is the most widely used measure of discrimination in health studies. Dr. Williams has played a visible, national leadership role in raising awareness levels of the problem of health inequalities and identifying interventions to address them.

**Tekisha Dwan Everette** is the Executive Vice President of Trust for America's Health in Washington D.C. and the former Executive Director of Health Equity Solutions Inc. in Hartford. Before leading Health Equity Solutions (HES), she served as the Managing Director of Federal Government Affairs with the American Diabetes Association, where she provided strategic leadership on policy and advocacy initiatives with the White House, several federal agencies, and Congress, which led to important victories for people with and at risk for diabetes.

Dr. Everette has also represented the interests of several nonprofit health care organizations on issues such as health reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and federal appropriations. In addition, she has worked for the Service Employees International Union, RESI, the State of Maryland, and the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation. Dr. Everette earned her doctorate in Sociology from American University with a concentration in race, gender, and social justice as it relates to social policy. She received her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Virginia Tech and holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies.

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together to discuss openly and honestly important issues relating to social justice will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community.

This is a free event open to all. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org) or contact us by email at [glastonburymlkci@gmail.com](mailto:glastonburymlkci@gmail.com). Please bring a non-perishable food item to the event to donate to the Glastonbury Food Pantry.