

ICDHR EXPANDS GLOBAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVE TO KOREA: MISSION TO JORDAN IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD



Reverend/Dr. Clyde Brooks, ICDHR Chairman and member of the American Clergy Leadership Conference represented ICDHR at a worldwide conference in Seoul, Korea to address the declining values on marriage, family, peace and diversity acceptance across the world.

During the nine day conference, meetings were held with the leadership of more than 250 Korea Clan groups and community, religious and government leaders.

Reverend Brooks also joined clergy from across the planet in a march to the "Bridge of Freedom" for peace and reunification over Korea's de-militarized zone separating the two Koreas.

For information regarding the mission to the country of Jordan, call Dr. Brooks at 708-772-8752.

The mission of the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR) is to create successful human relations models across gender, racial and cultural lines. The ICDHR works with business, religious, government and community groups to advance a better understanding of our similarities and to foster a sense of togetherness.

DR. MICHAEL HOGAN, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESIDENT, PLEDGES SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING



Dr. Clyde Brooks, ICDHR Chairman and Dr. Hogan have united in an effort to encourage more youth to enter schools of higher learning, a key dream of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King urged all of us to judge each other by the content of character and not the color of one's skin. As such, we are convinced that a solid education can help enhance character. Dr. Hogan has pledged \$300,000.00 to match scholarships provided by ICDHR for youth who enroll in the University of Illinois.

The ICDHR is in the process of raising \$300,000.00, its' share of the matching scholarship initiative. Students who are planning to attend the University of Illinois in September, 2012 and interested in securing a ICDHR scholarship, should telephone Dr. Brooks at 708-772-8752. Persons interested in joining in this initiative by donating and/or working on the Scholarship Committee should also call Dr. Brooks.



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ICDHR CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF DR. KING'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH



It was August 28, 1963 when Dr. King stood at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. where three hundred thousand people representing all racial, religious, cultural and nationality groups gathered and Dr. King cited the famous words "I have a Dream."

On Sunday, August 28, 2011 on the 48th anniversary of the speech, Reverend Richard Gills, ICDHR Chaplain, Mark Kosevich, ICDHR board member, Dennis Macklin, ICDHR Vice President of Technical Services, and Michero Washington, ICDHR Vice President of Program Operations joined ICDHR Chairman Reverend Clyde Brooks and more than three hundred local and national leaders in remembering this gathering more than 48 years ago.

Following the gathering, Dr. Brooks, reminded those assembled that ideals advocated by Dr. King are at risk. While many basic rights are now enjoyed, thousands of people of color, as well as others, are still suffering. Some folks blame the economy, some blame racism.

Others feel many of those that Dr. King fought for have forgotten and are indifferent. Because many of our youth cannot read adequately, they cannot locate employment. In fact, even the military will not accept many of these youth. He continued by stating that the Civil Rights Movement must now hasten to the classroom. We must cease blaming others for our suffering.

44TH ANNUAL DR. KING REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION DINNER TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

Dr. Clyde Brooks, ICDHR Chairman announced that the 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance and Celebration Dinner will be held at the Chicago Hilton Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Mayor Rahm Emanuel is the invited speaker. For more information, please call 708-772-8752.

ICDHR REMEMBERS SCLC PRESIDENT



While his tenure as SCLC National President was brief, only seven months, the death of Rev. Howard Crecy, Jr. at the young age of 57 was a shock to all who admire his dedication to continuing the work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., SCLC's most notable President. Reverend Crecy devoted his life to promoting freedom, justice, fairness and equality for all Americans regardless of race, color, gender, nationality and cultural background. Reverend Crecy will be sorely missed.

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OUR YOUTH AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



During the ICDHR Conference on "Youth and Parent Responsibilities", ICDHR affiliates were urged to get involved in training youth early on financial management. During his presentation, Dr. Brooks, ICDHR Chairman, urged leaders to focus more on parental responsibilities. He urged the leaders to urge parents to understand their responsibilities and accountabilities for being role models for their children. To be a model, parents must engage, if necessary, in self education, for every parent should want to be a model for their children. Training children in financial management should begin as early as two years old. For example, dropping coins into a piggy bank could serve as a beginning of understanding as to what a coin is.

Dr. Brooks urged parents, teachers and youth to encourage our youth to earn what they get. Teenagers should be encouraged to read and understand the financial section of newspapers. Teaching our youth about the stock market, how to establish credit and savings accounts, and how to fill out a checkbook and used credit cards to avoid lifelong debts, are crucial. In his closing remarks, he stated in a clear tone, "only a lazy person cannot save". He urged parents to serve as examples in teaching youth how to handle and process money. Parental teaching of financial management should be as important as teaching good manners.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

ICDHR was represented by Chairman Brooks at the Inaugural Ceremony of Dr. Jack Thomas, the Eleventh President of Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Under the leadership of his predecessor, Dr. Al Goldfarb, the University has become one of the largest and diversified educational centers in the State.

Dr. Thomas is the University's first African American President. Western is also the University where Chairman Brooks received his B.S. and M.S. Degrees.

Both Dr. Thomas and Dr. Goldfarb are serving as Honorary Dinner Chairs for the 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance and Celebration Dinner to be held at the Chicago Hilton Hotel on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

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ICDHR AND CHARTER ONE BANK FOUNDATION LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE



Thanks to a new "Healthy Austin" initiative by both Austin residents and businesses and a partnership with the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR) and Charter One Bank, an exciting pilot program is being launched to address financial literacy gaps in the Austin community. "Banking On Change In Austin" (BOCA) is an 8-week series that provides free financial workshops. The purpose is to educate and expand the community's understanding of credit, savings and investments. BOCA will educate youth and adults, and boost entrepreneurship among Austin residents. The programs are offered at Charter One Bank, 6400 W. North Ave., in Chicago, on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The value of financial literacy workshops is to combat the sense of "barely making it." Many families use currency exchanges as preferred "financial institutions." Short term/quick fix institutions perpetuate a negative cycle, where residents pay exorbitant interest rates, putting families in adverse financial positions

The ICDHR, a 501(c)(3) organization, has a history of providing innovative and life-changing programs in the State of Illinois. In order for community members to prepare for positive change in their financial future, the ICDHR notes that a fundamental understanding of financing, investments and basic fiscal responsibility must be realized. Charter One's commitment to small business is to support current and future small business owners in the community, and help them thrive.

The closing session will end with a business plan competition and celebration. It will also allow collaboration between Charter One Bank, the ICDHR, community members and small business. For more information call 773-270-0423.

DIVERSITY CONTINUES

The February 16th edition of the Chicago Sun-Times provided an update on diversity in the State, County and the City of Chicago as follows:

Chicago: White 45%, Black 36.8%, American Indian 0%, Asian 5%, Hispanic 29%

County: White 55%, Black 25.0%, American Indian 0%, Asian 6% Hispanic 24%

State: White 71.5%, Black 14.5%, American Indian 0.3%, Asian 4.6 %, Hispanic 15.8

These percentages are based in 2010 population figures.

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MAYOR MCLEOD OF HOFFMAN ESTATES TO LEAD ICDHR DR. KING CELEBRATION IN NORTHWEST SUBURBS



Dr. Clyde Brooks, ICDHR Chairman announced that the Honorable William McLeod, Mayor of the Village of Hoffman Estates will head the Eleventh Annual Northwest Dr. King Dinner on Thursday, January 19, 2012. The dinner will be held at the Stone Gate Conference Center in Hoffman Estates. Mayor McLeod and the Village of Hoffman Estates have long supported this event. In fact, no other northwest suburban municipality has a better record of support in honoring the legacy of Dr. King.

Under the leadership of Mayor McLeod, the Village of Hoffman Estates is the only northwest suburban municipality that, via its' cultural enrichment affiliate, hosts its' own commemoration of Dr. King. Dinner Chairman McLeod and Rev. Brooks announced that Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon will serve as the dinner speaker. For more information, please call ICDHR at 708-772-8752.

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