Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) lived a life of service and dedication to his fellow man. The Georgia College Cultural Center and Office of Inclusive Excellence commemorated his life, teachings and legacy by providing opportunities for students to learn from his example and make a difference in their community. “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spent a great portion of his life working to help manifest his idea of the ‘Beloved Community’ to ensure that the quality of life and the experiences of others was the best that they could possibly be. That work was not easy and was often met with opposition,” said Nadirah Mayweather, director of the Cultural Center at Georgia College. “We honor that work, because in the face of challenge, Dr. King still kept others in mind. He had a heart to help people,” she said. “At Georgia College, we encourage our students to think independently and to lead creatively. Dr. King is a beautiful example of this philosophy and leadership style, and all our lives are still impacted by his work.”

This theme for this year aligns with the King Center theme: “It Starts with Me... Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community.”

Several events have taken place on campus over the last few days. On Friday, Jan. 14, a mid-day ceremony kicking off the King Weekend 2022 was held on Front Campus. The 2022 virtual Beloved Community Town Hall hosted by the King Center was also made available for streaming.

A Day of Service was held Saturday giving students the chance to put the teachings of King into action through community service. Service sites included the Collins P. Lee Center and Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center.

“Service to others is something that Dr. King was passionate about. We hope that as students engage in service opportunities, not just this weekend, but continuously, that they will also recognize the importance of helping others and understand that they are a part of a global community,” said Mayweather. “Helping others is also a way of helping ourselves because we are all connected. In order to reach the beloved community, we must all continuously do our part to make it a better.”

Monday, Jan. 17 was designated “It Starts with Me Day.” The Georgia College and local community were encouraged to continue to engage in service and reflection on King’s life. You can share on social media ways that you are implementing King’s philosophies in your own life. Post pictures of service or reflections of his life and work using the hashtag #ITSTARTSWITHME. Tag us on Instagram: @ gc_cultural_center and @gc_oie.

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