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NEWS RELEASE

**EARLY REGISTRATION URGED FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE;
 CORETTA SCOTT KING, INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE, KEYNOTES**

DAYTON, Ohio — Participants in the fourth annual Annie T. Thornton Women's Leadership Conference at the University of Dayton will receive a special treat — dinner with one of the most influential women in the world, Coretta Scott King.

For a half century on the world stage, she's carried the message of social justice and peace and has led an exemplary life devoted to human rights. On **Saturday, March 5**, she will offer a **7 p.m. keynote address**, "Still Marching with Martin: Songs of Leadership," in the Thomas J. Frericks Athletic and Convocation Center on campus as part of the conference and UD's Diversity Lecture Series.

Conference participants will receive reserved seating in the front. The speech is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for those not attending the conference. Organizers urge early registration for the conference, which will be capped at 300 participants. The cost is \$5 for college students, regardless of when they register. It's \$40 for faculty, staff and community members who register before Jan. 1. After Jan. 1, the cost is \$50. The price includes the conference, dinner and a reserved seat at the lecture. To register for the conference, visit www.udayton.edu/~udwlc or call (937) 229-3353. Tickets for the free public lecture will be available after Jan. 17. Visit www.udayton.edu/~ku/tickets/ or call (937) 229-2545.

"Organizers of the Annie T. Thornton Women's Leadership Conference are delighted to host a speaker of Mrs. King's caliber during Women's History Month," said Debra Monk, associate director of residential programs and conference organizer. "She will surely inspire participants in their work to build social justice and leadership in community."

Since her husband's assassination in 1968, King has devoted much of her energy to

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developing the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to the civil rights leader's life and dream. As founding president, chair and CEO, she dedicated herself to providing training for tens of thousands of people in King's philosophy and methods. She has led goodwill missions to Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia, spoken at many of history's most massive peace and justice rallies and lent her support to democracy movements worldwide.

Born and raised in Marion, Ala., she claims ties to the Dayton region. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs before studying concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. Since then, she's received honorary doctorates from more than 40 colleges and universities, written three books and a nationally syndicated column, and helped found dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

"She's as comfortable talking to heads of state as she is spending time on picket lines with welfare rights mothers," Monk said. "She's a strong woman of vision and compassion."

King's visit is sponsored by the Annie T. Thornton Leadership Conference with support from a number of campus offices and the University of Dayton Diversity Lecture Series. That series was launched in November with civil rights leader Andrew Young, who drew a crowd of more than 2,000 people in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech in the Fieldhouse just days before he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Diversity Lecture Series — part of a larger strategic plan to foster inclusion and diversity on campus and prepare students, faculty, staff and the Dayton community for success in a global society — is cosponsored by the offices of the president and provost with support from corporate partners, including the *Dayton Daily News*, WHIO-TV and WDAO 1210-AM.

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For media interviews about the Annie T. Thornton Women's Leadership Conference, contact **Debra Monk** at (937) 229-2047 or **Yemi Mahoney**, assistant director of Kennedy Union, at (937) 229-3333. For a headshot of Coretta Scott King, contact **Teri Rizvi** at (937) 229-3241 or rizvi@udayton.edu.