

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

OEOP BULLETIN NO. 09-03

December 10, 2008

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

The Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (OEOP), in collaboration with the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences, cordially invites you to the NSF 2009 program in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sylvester James Gates

Einstein and the American Civil Rights Struggle

Thursday, January 15, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Room 375

Dr. Gates is the John S. Toll Professor of Physics and Director for the Center for String and Particle Theory at the University of Maryland, College Park. He received two bachelor degrees (mathematics and physics) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and PhD in physics from MIT. He did his postgraduate studies at Harvard University and California Institute of Technology. Dr. Gates is a pioneer in the development of the Superstring/M-theory. He has authored or co-authored over 200 research papers published in scientific journals, contributed numerous articles in books, and given a great number of lectures world-wide.

Dr. Gates has received honorary degrees from Georgetown University and Loyola University-Chicago. He is the recipient of several awards, including the American Physical Society's Edward A. Bouchet Award, MIT Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award, and Public Understanding of Science & Technology Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a past president of the National Society of Black Physicists

Dr. Gates has been featured on PBS television programs, including *Breakthrough: The Changing Face of Science in America*, *A Science Odyssey*, *The Elegant Universe*, and *Einstein's Big Idea*. He also created *Superstring Theory: The DNA of Reality*, a popular DvD.

Dr. Gates reports that Einstein has been a hero of his since he learned about the theory of relativity as a teenager, but it was much later that he became aware of Einstein's ideas on civil rights. He has subsequently given numerous talks about Einstein and his role in civil rights.

Note: If accommodations are required for persons with disabilities, please contact OEOP at 703-292-8020 or eeo@nsf.gov. To ensure our ability to provide accommodations, please contact us by January 8, 2009.

James H. Lightbourne, Acting Director, OEOP

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