



News release

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**Gateway to honor Cohen, Drescher
at Martin Luther King Jr. event**

Bishop Elliott K. Cohen of Racine and Jim Drescher of Lake Geneva are the recipients of the 2010 Gateway Technical College Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.

Cohen and Drescher will be honored at the 16th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration noon, Monday, Jan. 18, in the Madrigano Auditorium of the Conference Center on Gateway Technical College's Kenosha Campus, 3520-30th Ave. The two were selected for exemplifying the daily principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Recipients of the award demonstrate commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights and social justice and have improved lives and contributed to the well-being of people.

- **Bishop Elliott K. Cohen, Racine.** Cohen is the pastor and founder of Abundant Life Christian Center and executive director of Project New Life, CDC, both in Racine. Cohen's nominator says he "is the effective change that has influenced events, people and our community to be

the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood.” She further says the organizations Cohen directs offer a lasting positive impact on Racine and provide such services as emergency shelter, supportive housing, a mentoring and job skills program and a program to teach job readiness skills program. Cohen also helps direct an alternative to detention program, created as a tool to deter youth from engaging in criminal behavior and offers an alternative program to detaining them for violating court orders of supervision.

- **Jim Drescher, Lake Geneva.** Drescher is the owner of the Drescher Charitable Family Foundation of Lake Geneva. Drescher’s nominator says he “helps any and all people, no matter their color, race or religious affiliation.” He points to other work Drescher has done that serves the needs of the underrepresented and disadvantaged, including: work to support vocational training to those who have low work skills or underemployed; his effort to keep Lakeland School up and running – which eventually resulted in a new building – which serves 250 disadvantaged and handicapped children, including donating funds in addition to his time and talents; and his purchase of a vacant commercial building and turning it into a food pantry.

The celebration will feature keynote speaker **Jeremy D. Ponds**, a national civil rights activist and motivational speaker. Ponds is the youngest member on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference National Board of Directors and is the SCLC Collegiate Organizer.

This year's celebration theme is "And the Dream Lives On." Doors to the event open at 11:15 a.m. and a short reception will follow. The program is free and open to the public.

Audio and video of the event will be streamed at Gateway Technical College's Web site www.gtc.edu. The program will be carried on WGTD live at noon. WGTD, based out of Gateway Technical College, can be heard in Kenosha/Racine at 91.1, in Elkhorn at 101.7 and in Lake Geneva at 103.3.

For more information, contact Janet Days, (262) 619-6754.

Gateway Technical College collaborates with communities in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties to ensure economic growth and viability by providing education, training, leadership and technological resources to meet the changing needs of students, employers and communities.

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