



News Release

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Century College to Host Poet Nikki Giovanni on Jan. 29

Century College will host world-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni as the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series guest speaker on Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon to 1 p.m. in the West Campus Theatre. The public is invited to attend this free event.

Over the past 30 years, Giovanni has become known for her outspokenness as a poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator. One of the most widely-read American poets, her focus is on the individual and the power each one has to make a difference in oneself and in the lives of others.

Giovanni prides herself on being “a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English.” The author of 30 books for both adults and children, Giovanni is a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. She is also one of Oprah Winfrey’s 25 “Living Legends.”

Giovanni’s books have received honors and awards. Her autobiography, *Gemini*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Most recently, her children’s picture book, *Rosa*, about the civil rights legend Rosa Parks, became a Caldecott Honors Book and was number three on the New York Times Bestseller list.

Her spoken word recordings also have achieved widespread recognition and honors. Her *Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*, in which she reads and talks about her poetry, was one of five finalists for a Grammy Award.