On January 17, 2022 we celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., honoring the life and legacy of one of the great figures in modern American history.

With issues of race still on so many of our minds it is especially appropriate that we remember Dr. King, who did so much to promote equality of opportunity, social justice, and respect for human dignity.

Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway envisions a “university culture defined by tolerance, mutual respect, diversity, and the spirited exchange of opinions and ideas.” On this day of commemoration and service, we at the Bloustein School join President Holloway to embrace Dr. King’s vision for a “Beloved Community” for our school and university.

However you choose to spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day, please take a few moments to reflect upon, respect, and advance the values that he stood for—engaging with each other and with our communities, expanding perspectives, spreading compassion, and pursuing justice.

Thank you, and stay healthy and safe.

Prof. Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah, PhD
Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University
Dean, Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy