>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Hello everyone, if you could find your seats, we'll get started.
Hello, everyone.
Thank you so much. Please continue to eat the delicious food that we have and if you so choose, there's more food in the back, so please make sure that the food does not go to waste. So thank you all so much for being here. I would like to invite Dr. Timone Davis, assistant professor of pastoral studies to provide our invocation.
(Appause.)
>> DR. TIMONE DAVIS: Before we pray, as many of you have already
noticed, in the program, I spell my name (inaudible) and I was asked to explain that. And the explanation is quite simple. It is my visual reminder that I need (inaudible) so Christ can (inaudible) in me.

With that, let us pray.

God of creation, you created us in your image, so we could more fully represent the mystery that is you. Gathered here today we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., prophet of justice, by raising him up, you call us to address the gaping disparities that have existed for far too long. We have dreamt dreams that do away with racial backlash, but now we are awake to the reality that our dreams have not moved us forward.

In raising up Martin Luther King, Jr., you are calling us to action, reminding us that in your word, he is the message of liberation.

Sweet holy spirit, we cannot do this work without you. So we call upon you today to go before us like a pillar of fire, lighting the way. (Inaudible) we call upon you today to protect us from what we cannot see. (Inaudible) we call upon you today to agitate us from within, so we do not allow our spirits to rest until all are free. By calling each of us, you have made us prophets in our circles of (inaudible). May the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., prophet of justice, be an example of Christian living for our work today.


>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Thank you, Dr. Davis. Hello everyone, I am Astrid Beltran and I am the (inaudible) of MLK 2019. I'm also director for Water Tower Place. Thank you all so much for being here. Thank you from the department of human development, and the MLK 2019 (inaudible) we are excited to have our speaker here today.

Mr. Broderick Johnson, to honor the legacy and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with (inaudible) through awareness, advocacy and action. I would like to take a moment to thank all the committee members who helped put on this event for this whole week's celebration. Thank you to the MLK 2019 committee members, the students from the Black Cultural Center, Dr. Shawna Cooper Gibson, John Paul Salay, Arianna Lewis, Jane Neufeld, Joe Saucedo, Hannah Sternig, Taylor Thompson, Mark Torrez, and Dr. Winifred Williams.

I would also like to thank (inaudible) who is live streaming this event for us on channel 27.

Mr. Broderick Johnson will also be speaking at our lake shore campus this evening at 5:30, in the Damen student center in the multipurpose room. After Mr. Johnson speaks today, there will be some time for a Q and A, so please have some questions.

I would now like to invite Trevaughn Latimer, co-president of the Black Cultural Center, to lead us in lift every voice and sing.

(Appause.)

>> TREVAUGHN LATIMER: For those of us who are able, please stand.

(Singing: )

Lift every have voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stoney the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way, thou who has by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places our got where we met thee, lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee. Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Thank you so much for leading us in lift every voice and sing.

I would now like to introduce Dr. Winifred Williams, vice president, chief human resource office, and chief diversity and inclusion officer who will introduce Dr. Jo Ann Rooney.

(Applause.)

>> DR. WINIFRED WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, welcome to our snowy day. We appreciate having you all here.

As Astrid indicated, my name is Winifred Williams. I'm chief human resources officer and chief diversity and inclusion officer here at Loyola University. (Inaudible) diversity and inclusion, I'd like to permanently thank you for attending -- personally thank you for participating in the celebration. We're excited to have you here today to share the legacy that Dr. King shared with the world. Hopefully you have seen many of the communications we've had across all of our campuses and throughout Chicagoland, identifying all the activity that we are showcasing our engagement and the things we planned for our celebration today and this week. This year we have entertained an offer to have a dialogue which occurred last night. It was a huge success, it was awareness building around different religious faiths. Next we have our keynote speaker series which is launching today and tomorrow on our science campus, along with a service day opportunity, of which you have 11 locations for service, with over 100 faculty, staff, and student volunteers. As Astrid indicated earlier, our appreciation goes to the MLK planning committee and especially (inaudible) celebration to life. We hope these events provide an homage to Dr. King and his unwavering commitment to service, to faith and to social justice.

Accordingly, I would like to personally welcome you, our faculties and students and visitors, to Loyola's 2019 campus keynote speaker
events. Over the next few moments we'll learn much more about Dr. King from our keynote speaker, Mr. Broderick Johnson. But first, I'd like to take a moment to introduce Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, who serves as president of Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Rooney is an advocate for equal access to quality education for everyone. And has a passionate resolve to create a Loyola community that represents a rich and robust diverse campus experience. This experience not only for faculty, staff and students but in the community in which we work and learn. Dr. Rooney's diligent efforts remind us of Dr. King's mission, vision to do the same. It is therefore with great pleasure that I introduce our president, Dr. Jo Ann Rooney. Dr. Rooney?

(Applause.)

>> DR. JO ANN ROONEY: Thank you very much, Winifred.

It is an honor to be with all of you here today, and I'm especially pleased to see so many of us in the Loyola community come together to honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I'd like to echo Winifred's gratitude as well to the planning committee in addition to all of you attending, but the planning committee who over so many months very thoughtfully came together and looked for ways to bring us together as community in so many ways to really honor Dr. King's legacy.

It is in gatherings like this that we often honor Dr. King's legacy and especially seek ways to extend and continue the struggle for social justice and economic equity.

We do come together in the spirit of community, resolved as teachers, staff, and students to listen to each other, to push the front tears of our individual and collective knowledge and experience, especially to apply insights and develop the kinds of skills that we need to direct towards the service of others. In a half century, our culture and our laws have made some progress. But there continues to be so much more work needed, and we are reminded of that on a daily basis.

Recalling that it took nearly 15 years of struggle to get a holiday to commemorate Dr. King, just reinforces how much more work there is for all of us to do together.

We cannot become complacent. And we must not turn away from the deep divides and stubborn inequalities that remain. Let us continue to call out racism and inequality that persists, but also let us work together to develop the remedies to address the health, economic and achievement gaps that remain right in our midst today.

On a journey to equity, America and we as Americans still have many, many roads to travel. Hopefully you will continue to seek out opportunities for as many of us as possible to continue that, talk about, and especially walk that road on the journey together.

The theme of our gathering this year is addressing disparity through awareness, advocacy, and action. And we are pleased to have with us today a keynote speaker whose career and work exemplifies all of these.

Broderick Johnson is a visionary leader of my brother's keeper initiative. He was assistant to the president and cabinet secretary
in the Obama administration, and has served in both the public and private sectors. He was the senior advisor to the Obama presidential campaign in 2012, informal advisor to the campaign in 2008, and was a senior congressional advisor to the Kerry campaign in 2004.

During the Clinton administration, he served as deputy assistant to the president for legislative affairs and he started his career in the House of Representatives, drafting landmark legislation including the family and medical leave act, FMLA and immigration reform and control act of 1986. He served as chief counsel to the house committee from the District of Columbia and as chief counsel to the house committee on education and the workforce.

In the private sector, he was previously vice president at AT&T corporation. He is a partner at (inaudible) an international law firm where he heads public policy.

He has served director for philanthropic and academic groups, inclusion concerned black men, project north star and center for American progress action fund and the alumni association of the University of Michigan.

Mr. Johnson received a bachelor’s from the college of Holy Cross, and his JD from the University of Michigan where he has lectured on public policy and government relations. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and currently lives in Washington, D.C. with his family.

Please join me with a special welcome to Mr. Broderick Johnson.

(Appause.)
>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: Good afternoon.
First let me thank the leaders of this great Jesuit institution, to the students, the faculty, the administrators, the staff and visitors who are here. I am deeply humbled by your invitation to speak here at Loyola University today.

Thank you to Trevaughn Latimer for that stirring rendition of lift every voice and sing.

(Appause.)
Last summer he was a student in a class I taught on public policy and criminal justice reform in Ann Arbor. In a class full of very impressive students, Trevaughn was among the very best and the brightest. It's great to see you. Thank you for your role in having me here.

Dr. Williams, it's a pleasure to meet you. Dr. Rooney, I appreciate the generous introduction. Sometimes I hear myself introduced, and I'd like to meet that guy.

(Laughter.)
But I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had.

I should mention one change in my life, in my bio. As of a month ago, I joined another law firm, I joined the law firm of (inaudible) my friend and long time colleague, Eric Holder, to practice law in Covington. Let me thank you Joseph Saucedo for making this possible.

Today we celebrate the life of one of the greatest human beings who ever walked this planet. A man who made the ultimate sacrifice to bring
justice and dignity to this nation and the world.

Had he lived, he would have turned 90 years old last week. Had he lived, I imagine Dr. King would have looked at noble and distinguished as Nelson Mandela did in his 90s. Had he lived another 51 years, he may have been the first African-American president or have been made secretary general of the United Nations, but tragedy in his life was cut so short, and we can't know what else Dr. King would have achieved had he lived longer. But we do know this: That while he lived, he became the greatest drum major for justice, that while he lived, even in the face of unspeakable threats to his life, and to the safety of his loved ones, Dr. King never stopped fighting for justice and racial equality; that while he lived, he brought us closer to the promised land, the land he was so confident would be our ultimate destination, the land that Dr. King spoke to eloquently about in his final public speech in Memphis, Tennessee on the night of April 3, 1968. So the reason we celebrate Dr. King every year, as we should, but we're also celebrating there's an injustice to his name if we stop advocating, if we stop fighting for justice, if we stop taking action, if we stop making ourselves and others aware of the disparities that still plague this nation. Hatred, bigotry, inhumanity haven't taken a pause. In fact those who (inaudible) more boldly in these times we live in. I can't be here today without addressing something that is going on in the nation's capital. I work around the federal government for more than three decades. I've lived through government shutdowns before. Nothing, nothing approaches the cruelty of the current shutdown. Nearly a million federal workers and contractors are locked out of their jobs, or are forced to work with no pay. Federal workers are forced to stand in food lines. Proud public servants (inaudible) proud moms and dads haven't had kid's birthday parties or are being forced to rely on relatives or neighbors for day care as many of them go to work for nothing, for no pay. It's unconscionable that our brothers and sisters work for all of us, and let me acknowledge the thousands of (inaudible) who are being treated as political pawns in the nation's capital. How unconscionable? It's so beneath the dignity of this great nation.

I was fortunate enough to work for a president who every single day taught ways to lift up others, to extend compassion, and opportunity for the less privileged. Who embodied everything Dr. King stood and died for. As President Obama tweeted just the other day in tribute to Dr. King, quote, I have always (inaudible) Dr. King (inaudible) urgent question. What are you doing for others? To honor his legacy to stand up for what is right in our communities and taking steps to make a positive impact on the world. Close quote.

Amen to that message from President Obama.

So I'm a young Catholic school kid growing up in Baltimore in the 1960s. I paid a lot of attention to what was going on in the world, the civil rights movement, the war in Vietnam, the anti-war movement, the harassment and the assassination of great leaders, and uprisings all across America. When I was about ten years old, I remember watching
the news about Dr. King being attacked while leaving a fair housing
march here in the City of Chicago and I remember being confused, Chicago
isn't a southern city. It's not Mississippi? So how did that happen
there? It's (inaudible) 1968 led to riots all across America. My
hometown of Baltimore were among the deadliest and most destructive.
I remember the fires and violence, the troops with bayonets and troops
going through our neighborhoods. When Senator Robert Kennedy was
assassinated two months later in June of 1968, my social justice
conscience grew leaps and bounds. My hometown of Baltimore (inaudible)
violece and racial discord that came to an end in 1968. Why
segregation patterns exist in desperate neighborhoods, broad economic
and educational disparities still pervade. In addition as has been
described by my friend, Ta-Nehisi Coates (inaudible) on a smaller scale
(inaudible) ethnic neighborhoods with long segregated enclaves.
(Inaudible) deprive too many young people of the basic necessities of
life, security, safety, the right to live lives full of positive
possibilities. Baltimore and Chicago also have police departments
that were full of good men and women who joined the police officer
because they wanted to provide peace and safety to the communities they
were sworn to serve. But (inaudible) undermined by officers who use
their police authority and their power to mistreat (inaudible) men and
youth of color. What happened with LaQuan McDonald, the shooting, the
verdicts (inaudible) Black Lives Matter must remain a movement. And
yet Baltimore and Chicago all throughout this nation but all that is
wrong and has to be corrected, there is much that is good and right and
inspiring. Young people who despite seemingly insurmountable
challenges beat the odds, accomplish great things, make their
communities and families better and prouder. Like so many of the
students who attend this great university. We owe it to you, we owe
it to others, we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to Dr. King, and all
the advocates to be positive for story tellers with achievement
(inaudible) uplifted expectations.

Let me tell you also something important about myself and tie that
to lessons about expectations that I want to share. I was raised by
loving parents, parents who now rest with the lord each and every day.
My mom and dad sacrificed so much for my sisters and me. William and
Mary Johnson had been denied so many opportunities because of
segregation and white privilege in Baltimore but they were determined
that their children will see opportunities denied them and they also
expected a lot from us, that we would take advantage of the
opportunities. There would be no excuses. I don't think our parents
ever imagined that their only son would work for not just one but two
U.S. presidents. Maybe they thought one, but two? And the first
African-American president? My parents had high expectations for me.
But throughout my life there were those who (inaudible) expected of me
and what I would expect of myself. This lowered expectations started
when I was just a little boy and followed me through college and law
school and into my professional life.
For example, my first college (inaudible) suggested that I drop out of Holy Cross. Go West and find myself after my freshman year. My second advisor (inaudible) said to me years later (inaudible) the schools to which I applied including University of Michigan, would be too hard for me to get into. Perhaps I should change the list. I didn't. An advisor in my first year of law school advised me to lower my expectations (inaudible) expect that (inaudible) I wouldn't be so bad after all. So I graduated from Michigan in 1983. For decades after, my mom loved telling the story about my second grade teacher summoned her and my dad to her office to tell them that their seven year old son was already on a path to reform school. (Inaudible) my mother repeated that story often at family celebrations. For things I accomplished. Like the day I was sworn into the DC bar. She would boast that her son didn't end up in reform school after all, but instead became a respected attorney and a White House official. I still that broad proud smile on her face every time she would tell that story.

My parents instilled in me so many values, to not forget where I came from and to always give back. So rather than (inaudible) I told you so's, I've always looked for ways to pay it forward. For example, in the fall of 2011, I returned to Michigan law school on the other side of the desk as an adjunct professor. I started teaching a (inaudible) to second and third year law students and I continued to teach that course. I taught it in the fall 2017 and 2018. It was a course designed (inaudible) supported me while I was there, like my mentor, the former secretary of the interior Kenneth Salazar. Through that course (inaudible) through my unique career, navigating intersection between law, legislative procedure and strategy, advocacy, ethics and politics.

Let me share another story about expectations that's sometimes associated with my professors at Michigan. I'll take you back to home coming weekend 2011. My then 12 year old son and my mom had flown to Michigan (inaudible) my younger son and I took a walk around the law quad, just the two of us. At the end of that walk, my son turned to me and asked me this, he said, dad, if I decide to come to school here one day, will you still be teaching here? Let me repeat that. Dad, if I decide to come to Michigan, will you still be teaching here? What's so unusual about his question wasn't that it stuck with me for so long. You see like so many of you, my mom and dad never thought I would attend a school like Loyola or university of Michigan. They didn't imagine themselves being lawyer (inaudible) actually denied admission to Thurgood Marshall on the basis of his race. (Inaudible) children and grandchildren, so that question posed that day in October of 2011 by my young son, their grandson, wasn't about pursuing a distant dream of higher education. The much closer reality to him. The decision about what to pursue and where to go would be just that. Very intentional decisions for him, for my other children, and in fact the future generations of children in the Johnson family. The story is different for them. It's if I decide starting point. By the way, that son is a senior in high school. I'm proud to say he's achieving a near perfect
score on the SAT. He's (inaudible) highly ranked colleges across the country. He will soon make his decision about where to go.

So the expectations (inaudible) accomplish and that's great for my family, but a central motivation of my life's work has been and will forever be to make (inaudible) to help raise their expectations to meet and exceed their children's expectations. Since I'm speaking to some law students in here, let me be clear about some things about law school. I see a professor over there nodding.

(Inaudible) about our own responsibilities. So when I entered law school in the fall of 1980, I didn't have much of an idea of what to expect (inaudible) or what to expect of myself. So first year law school as well. (Inaudible) look, here's what I (inaudible) I didn't put in the time or energy or discipline I should have in my first semesters in law school. I was easily distracted, perhaps even a bit complacent about academic obligations, so if there's one regret I have about law school it's I should have been more academically focused in my first year. Law school is a brief period in your life, a very brief period. I should not have viewed law school so much as a destination, like a place to get to and be happy, but more as a playing field to conquer before moving on (inaudible) I hope you Loyola law students hear what I'm saying. Because it makes a big difference. And through hard work, you can overcome many of life's disadvantages.

Let me applaud you for the theme you chose for this year's celebration, addressing disparity through awareness, advocacy, and action. Let me first start talking about awareness.

So for me, with so many of us in this room, we are walking examples of this nation's many disparities (inaudible) economic status, race, gender, race and gender, achievement. We walk in the setting, as you all know where we are immediately made aware of those disparities, like the classroom, the college dorm or the police precinct, the corporation, the law firm, the reception in social gatherings where we look around and we notice immediately that we often are the only one in a room where it happens. But we are disproportionately among the many in the room we don't want to be in. Often I wonder and you wonder as well why no one else seems to notice those disparities. So I wonder if anyone else realizes it, maybe you're the only person of color in the room. Does it bother you? Disparities aren't just statistics (inaudible). The question is what do we do about them? Let me say this, before we can really attack disparities, we need to be armed with the facts and the data, because the battle of anecdotes, disparities can be denied by those who are or who deliberately choose to be blind to systemic discrimination, historical discrimination, disparity (inaudible) person, woman in a room, and in fact even the existence of those disparities. We have to push back against that notion. We have to push back against the misconception that it's all about just pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. It does matter the ability you put into it but it takes a lot more but we have to be armed with data and facts about the disparities, so here are some of the disparities we know about.
These things we are aware when it comes to the greatest disparities that separate the fortunes of children of color from others. And people by class, their economic class.

So we mentioned the word (inaudible). By age three children from low income households probably know 30 million fewer words. 30 million. When I heard that, I thought that's not possible. (Inaudible) have done studies (inaudible) also the quality of the words. Discipline problem policy. African-American students represent 16 percent of the public school population, but make up more than 42 percent of those suspended more than one time and 34 percent of students expelled. These are hard statistics. They don't make you feel good, but these are real data. You need to understand and be aware of.

College enrollment and success. Only 16 percent of Hispanic men (inaudible) college degrees by their late 20s compared to nearly 40 percent of white men.

Employment, (inaudible) it's hard to say a black baby boy born 25 years ago has a one in two chance of being employed today. So in the face of these disparities, what do we do? We must advocate and act so that (inaudible) my brother's keeper.

So I met then Illinois State senator Barack Obama in the fall of 2003. He was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate seat representing Illinois. Mutual friend, the late Sandra Butz asked me to meet her friend from law school and consider whether or not I could help him in his ascendance. Thus began in (inaudible) to his election to the U.S. Senate in 2006. The early conversation was about his potential run for the White House (inaudible) 2008 and 2012. Soon after his reelection in 2012, the president and I started talking about a role for me in his White House in his second term so in February of 2014, I joined the senior staff as assistant to the president, which meant that I was among his top advisors, including my dear friend, and a Chicago native, Valerie Jarrett and I served as his cabinet secretary as well. That didn't mean that I had a cabinet department that I was in charge of (inaudible) great understanding of what was going on in the agencies but he also helped me develop this bold new idea he had in mind about my brother's keeper initially. The murder of Trayvon Martin and the subsequent acquittal of George Zimmerman troubled President Obama. I was on his campaign staff in Chicago. I remember in the campaign headquarters (inaudible) what the president might say about the shooting (inaudible) himself. It's fair to say that the intellectual foundation of MBK as we call it was formed when the president responded to the acquittal of Zimmerman by saying, quote, beyond the protests, the question is are there some things we might be able to do. Close quote.

As he described it a few weeks later, the president submits that he should use his power as President of the United States to employ the resources of the federal government to call upon the public and private sectors to do much more. To address boys and young men of color and that that effort would be driven from the Oval Office.
On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson had signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He did it from the East room of the White House. There were pictures of that showing (inaudible) Dr. King, other civil rights leaders, members of Congress and labor officials. This historic civil rights legislation was about (inaudible) but for more than 50 years, this nation continued to struggle to (inaudible) promises of that act and of course it still does. So on February 22, 2014, the first African-American president of this country spoke in that same East room and he signed into law the presidential memorandum that established my brother's keeper and surrounding him were young men from Chicago and Washington, D.C. and other cities. Other politicians and other leaders of the great foundation, and if you go to that picture from that day, that established my brother's keeper you will see young men from those cities behind him. I don't think any of us were aware that when he signed MBK that there was a significance of him doing that in that same majestic room in the White House where the 1964 Civil Rights Act had been signed into law. I would just say this. These two presidential actions were about the same core issues. (Inaudible) fulfilling the more urgent way and the promises made in 1964. Let me just say a couple things about my brother's keeper. From the outside at least, (inaudible) evidence based community driven approach to barriers (inaudible) infancy, to identify that we should know about the greatest disparities and to promote what works, to make us better aware. After rigorous research, that the president directed across the federal government, we became aware of and were able to expose even more shocking disparities. I mentioned some. Let me add on a couple more.

We became aware, for example, that thousands of preschoolers, preschoolers, preschoolers typically are about (inaudible) inches tall, about that big, weigh about 80 pounds. So these little ones were being routinely suspended or expelled from pre schools around the country on the basis and of course it was children of color and disproportionately male. We also became aware of the extent to which repeated suspensions from elementary and middle school placed boys of color in the school to prison pipeline. We also became aware of the tremendous harm done by (inaudible) application that asked whether the (inaudible) likelihood of checking that box would do to the chances for someone seeking a second chance, a job to turn around his or her life. And the disparities are based on race and they are profound. We know these things. We know many other troubling and unacceptable things because were ordered to do the research and beyond the anecdotes, we know these things now better, because of the data collection that we did.

While we have the White House, we incentivized school districts to stop expelling preschoolers. While we had the White House, we developed new collaborations among federal agencies to address recidivism. For example, Arne Duncan who was our great secretary of education and has returned here to Chicago, to fight the good fight, identified (inaudible) second chance programs to 12,000 (inaudible)
individuals in prisons across the United States. While we had the White House, we (inaudible) reduction strategies and programs (inaudible) Department of Justice in many states and while we had the White House, President Obama ordered all federal agencies to ban the box for federal employer applications, we urged the private sector to do that as well and many leading companies in this country have done that and continue to do so. And while we had the White House, 250 communities, one in every state and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico became my brother's keeper. And they remain so today.

(Inaudible) well beyond his presidency that would remain his life's work. He expressly (inaudible) final weeks of his presidency when people wondered what are you going to do when you finish the White House? The president sees this work very personally. In June 2015, the president said this in fact, quote, I want every young man to know I'm not that different from them. I wasn't born into wealth or fame. I made a lot of mistakes but I kept at it. My brother's keeper is a major component of the Obama Foundation and it speaks volumes about his commitment and the importance of it, the 44th President of the United States. I continue to serve as chairman of its advisory board which has many of its original board members. We're making investments in smaller communities, including here in Chicago and in February we will hold our first national MBK summit and we'll bring people from across the country, young men, and young women who are working to change their communities bit by bit.

So here's a fundamental question for children of color. Do we tell them at the outset that they're victims of (inaudible) statistics and say the odds are against you, when they struggle, they should accept the fact that they're on the wrong side of disparities, that they should lower their expectations (inaudible) seize possibilities and to work hard? I think we all would agree on what the answer to that question should be. We should advocate for them and with them and change the narrative.

(Inaudible) in the west wing of the White House and over the last six of my time there, I left several (inaudible) to keep me and my staff motivated and focused on (inaudible) one of those expressions was to make exceptional no longer the exception. Again to make exceptional (inaudible) by the fact that in many situations, (inaudible) the reality is true and there's perceptions, the need to change the narrative (inaudible) of boys and girls and young men and women of color. In so many ways this has been addressed since 1968 but we still have far to go. We need to recognize the (inaudible) of millions of kids who are otherwise be left behind. (Inaudible) what was the most memorable experience I had in the White House and there were many. (Inaudible) Pope Francis visited the White House in September of 2015, throughout my life I (inaudible) Catholic, very much (inaudible) social values, and I learned in Catholic school and in Holy Cross. In my political work in all three presidential campaigns, especially the Obama campaigns, among my responsibilities was to organize Catholic voter
support for President Obama, especially in key swing states with substantial Catholic populations, like Ohio and Pennsylvania. I'm so proud to say that President Obama won the Catholic vote in both of his presidential elections. So when Pope Francis visited in September, I was extended the incredible privilege of having President Obama introduce me and to have the president tell the Pope about my work (inaudible) and my social justice values (inaudible).

There were many memorable moments and that one stands out as the greatest.

Let me close with this. Many Martin Luther King commemorations and celebrations begin or end with a speaker projecting what he or she thinks Dr. King would say about the (inaudible) communities. Some people predict he would be disheartened by the state of things today (inaudible) of crime, particularly black on black crime, of the racial hatred and division that has taken place in this nation. I don't profess I know what Dr. King would say. But I can say a couple of things. He would be proud of the progress we made against bigotry (inaudible) graduating from colleges and universities and medical schools. He would be proud that we elected our first African-American president twice. I think he would be proud (inaudible) Michelle Obama is one of the most popular and admired people in the world. But Dr. King urged us to keep working, to bridge disparities, through awareness and advocacy, but most of all, action.

So thank you, Loyola, and by the way, thank you for that great final four game.

(Laughter.)

(Appraise.)

Please give my regards to Sister Jean. I had actually thought of going to games or leading up to that game, but my wife said there's nothing you can say on Twitter that would be welcome. So leave Sister Jean be but please give her my regards.

So thank you all very much for this opportunity. I had a lot to say. I could say a lot more. I know you may have a few questions, and I'm honored to be here.

So thanks very much.

(Appraise.)

>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Do we have any questions?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you so much.

Thank you so much for your inspiring leadership. (Inaudible) the most (inaudible) in our society was trans and queer folks of color are the people that can teach us the most about social justice and advocacy, activism and everything you spoke about today. During your speech and a lot of us fall in this, you said men and women, boys and girls, mom and dad, not leaves space for people who do not fall into that binary gender. For those two things, Dr. Martin West's reflection (inaudible) what are your thoughts on our transgender communities.

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: Let me say first with regard to my language and the terms that I used, of course not meaning to overlook anyone or
to be in any way disrespectful or myopic. And let me say this. Cornell West and I (inaudible) I'll leave that alone. But I'm going to share with you though how much in my own family, my own experience as a father, over the past several months I have learned a bit more than --

>> Would you mind speaking into the microphone?

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: This one?

So let me ask you to answer your question. That's why I have it.

In a very personal way, and allowed me to say this about my younger son who I mentioned who wouldn't mind that I said this. So this was back in November, and I had gotten home about 11:00 o'clock at night and my wife and I were pretty tired and my son was finishing a college education, his essay and he said, mom and dad, I want you to read this and I said I'm tired. I'll read it tomorrow and he insisted that we read it and we read it and got to page two, and on page two, our son said, and this is the first time he had said this to us. Our son said it's important for me to acknowledge both my African-American community and my pride, and also my LGBTQ community as well. And that is the way he chose to come out, because the next day was an actual coming out day, and the pride in his courage and what I learned then also about perhaps overlooking things, not giving my son a space for conversations he wanted to have. So I would say I learned so much from him about the terms I use, about the way I look at parenting and parenthood, and making sure that, you know, there are no (inaudible) communities based on gender and racial identity, so I hope that's responsive to you, because I'm still, you know, like the rest of us, learning and understanding. And it's through my son that I learned that.

Thank you.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: So one of the things (inaudible) dream has become a nightmare.

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: What.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: His dream has become a nightmare (inaudible) I would like to know your reflection on that (inaudible) spoke to poverty, racism (inaudible) has also expanded (inaudible).

So how would you reflect on his words?

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: You know, that's -- I always hesitate to give the impression that I think that, you know, we were so close (inaudible) I recognize as I mentioned, the disparities already. I think Dr. King was an optimistic man so much of his life but I don't know what year he said (inaudible) because I know by 67 and 68, Dr. King certainly was becoming quite frustrated with the conditions in the United States, that they weren't changing fast enough. But I don't know what he would think about today, except that I'm confident he would think things have gotten a lot better recently. And one of the things that President Obama says all the time that I find consoling at times when I think about all the negative things we still have to fight, especially in these times, is that there is good, and there's no question that things largely are better now than they were in 1966, 67, 68, but let's say 20 years from now hopefully we can say that things have continued to get better, and
that is good. We still have so far to go, but believe me, they are so much better than they were.

I suspect that's probably the best answer to your question. But they are.

We don't know what Dr. King would say about today, but so much has changed.

Yes?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for your great speech, and speaking about data, facts, in the media, we have this choice where we (inaudible) so with the niche consumption of where we should get our information from, and you think about data driven analysis being able to live that and undergird that policy, how do we best deliver those data points in order to address disparity so we move the needle on where information comes from and how we can use that to impact how policy moves forward in our society and choosing to disregard critical data to make decisions based on (inaudible).

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: Well, I think you have to use every -- do I need to stand in front of this microphone?

You need to use every outlet to get information out, but especially social media. All these social media platforms that are there and others that we can develop (inaudible) what does the information in the data or facts tell us and what's being done (inaudible) too many times people still are informed about what they watch on the networks, you know, all the talking heads on all the shows. I know a lot of them. They're great people but they can overwhelm you with a lot of cliches and not a lot of facts. It's essential that we are using my brother's keeper (inaudible) using social media platforms in order to do that. I think we have to be creative about how we use those outlets and we have to (inaudible) and disputing (inaudible).

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question is very much (inaudible) not necessarily the lack of resources (inaudible) a lot of opportunity, (inaudible) a lot of what we argue about is disparity. These are actions that are happening in the world. But it's hard for me to show him, and (inaudible) see what's happening.

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: I'm sorry, who is this?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: My nephew.

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: How old is he?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Eighth grade.

How do (inaudible) how did you assist them (inaudible) showing them that this exists, while we're surrounded by (inaudible)?

>> BRODERICK JOHNSON: Yeah. My children are a bit -- very fortunate to grow up with parents (inaudible) important to give them lots of opportunities but also surrounded by a world of people who could inspire them and who they got to be very close to. I think many of you -- many of you know who Gwen Ifill was who was on the PBS news hour. (Inaudible) godmother, so my daughter (inaudible) largely talked about her drive. And so they were that close and we miss her every day, so my children grew up in Washington, D.C. at a time when Obama was in the
White House, so there's no question in my mind their (inaudible) and their optimism despite what's going on there now (inaudible) growing up and going to school during the Obama years (inaudible) so to some degree, my children have had of course many, many more opportunities and it's easier to convince them. However, they are incredibly aware of what's going on around them, they are compassionate and care about other people and they get involved in (inaudible) similar to my brother's keeper, similar organizations that work with young people of color, in order to give back. I think that a challenge so much for your nephew is just to stay optimistic and avoid cynicism that can be easy to buy into and I think that's something we all personally have to do. But also to surround him with other people who are positive as well as (inaudible) as much as possible.

>> Thank you, folks, for your questions. We're going to have to wrap up things.
   Join me in giving another round of applause --
   (Applause.)

>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Before you leave here, I want to bring up Dr. Winifred Williams.

>> DR. WINIFRED WILLIAMS: Mr. Johnson, thank you so much for your time and effort in joining us today. As a token of appreciation on behalf of our entire Loyola community, we present you with this parting gift, and we very much appreciate you being here.
   Thank you so much.
   (Applause.)

>> ASTRID BELTRAN: Thank you all for joining us today for our luncheon. As a reminder, we have an event tonight. Mr. Johnson is also speaking on the lake shore campus. And there's an event in Maywood tomorrow as well. Thank you all so much. Have a great evening.
   (End of event.)

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