



Black Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association

January 13, 2019

Mr. William Beekman
Director of Athletics
Michigan State University
1855 Place
Campus

Dear Mr. Beekman:

I write on behalf of the Michigan State University (MSU) Black Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association (BFSAA). It has come to our attention that a men's basketball game is scheduled for Monday January 21, 2019. Since 1986, the third Monday in January has been designated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As an American National Holiday, classes at MSU are cancelled. MLK Jr. Day is traditionally set aside to allow individuals to attend events **specifically** honoring Dr. King, the civil rights legacy, and for the nation to pause to reflect on what can be done to move the needle towards an increasingly just nation and world. To our knowledge, this is the first time at MSU that such an athletic event has been scheduled on this day.

Most of us are ardent and loyal fans of MSU athletics, and we are dismayed that this has occurred. We feel this act reflects negatively on MSU and shows a disrespect of the meaning of the Dr. King holiday. We strongly appeal to you and the Athletic Department not to repeat this in the future.

Sincerely,

Eunice F. Foster, Ph.D.
President of the Black Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association

Cc: Coach Tom Izzo
President John Engler
Provost June Youatt
Ms. Paulette Granberry Russell, Esquire
Vice President Denise Maybank
MSU Board of Trustees
The State News
University Council Steering Committee

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