

Loretta Lynch Introduction for MLK Event

Fellow faculty, students, and community members, good evening and welcome to tonight's event. I'm Mitch Daniels, the President of Purdue University. Tonight, we celebrate this year's school theme of 'Democracy, Civility, and Freedom of Expression.' One of America's greatest advocates for Purdue's current theme once said the following: "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Tonight, we gather to honor the life and the legacy of the civil rights hero who originally said this quote. This hero is none other than Martin Luther King Jr.

At this time, I'd like to introduce you to tonight's first speaker, Loretta Lynch. Lynch graduated with her Bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1981, and completed her J.D. degree at Harvard Law School in 1984. From 1990 to 1997, Lynch worked for the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Brooklyn, New York. During this time, she helped with many prosecutions for violent crimes, public corruption, and civil rights issues. She also served as the first female African American Attorney General from 2015 to 2017. Today, Lynch will provide her expert advice on Martin Luther King's legacy and discuss how it relates to Purdue's 2020 theme.

However, before I turn the time over to Loretta, I would like to leave you with one more quote by Martin Luther King Jr. This quote states, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." As members of this great country, it is our duty to speak up and to defend democracy and civility at all costs. For without these rights, our ability to meet the "broader concerns of all humanity" is severely limited.

Now, without further ado, please join me in welcoming Loretta Lynch. Loretta...