

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Lecture

Previous Lecturers

1996	Gerald Early, Ph.D.
1997	Claude H. Organ, Jr. M.D.
1998	Alvin Poussaint, M.D.
1999	Harry Wu
2000	Christopher Edley, Jr.
2001	Mary Frances Berry, Ph.D.
2002	Elena Rios, M.D., M.S.P.H.
2003	Juan Williams
2004	Manning Marable, Ph.D.
2005	Freeman Hrabowski III, Ph.D.
2006	Ellis Cose
2007	Patricia Williams, J.D.
2008	Angela Oh, J.D.
2009	William Julius Wilson, PhD

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Lecture

Monday, January 18, 2010
4:00 p.m.

Washington University School of Medicine
Eric P. Newman Education Center
320 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

“Quality Matters: The Compelling Case for Diversity in the Academic Workforce”

Guest Speaker:

Johnnetta B. Cole, PhD

Director, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art
Past President, Spelman and Bennett Colleges

Presented by Washington University School of Medicine
Office of Diversity Programs

Program

Welcome/Introduction Will Ross, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Dean for Diversity
Office of Diversity Programs

Remarks Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D.
Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis

Remarks and Larry Shapiro, M.D.
Introduction of Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean for Medical Affairs
Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D. Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

“Quality Matters: Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D
The Compelling Case for Director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art
Diversity in the Past President, Spelman and Bennett Colleges
Academic Workforce”

Question & Answer Session Audience



Johnnetta B. Cole is a preeminent educator, scholar, and advocate for social justice. Dr. Cole was president of Spelman College in Atlanta (1987-1997) where her appointment generated a \$20 million gift from Bill and Camille Cosby. In addition, she completed a \$113 million capital campaign. In 1992, the magazine U.S. News and World Report gave Spelman a coveted number-one rating in its annual survey of “Best College Buys.” Spelman College was also named the number-one ranked liberal arts college in the South. After ten outstanding years as President of Spelman, Cole returned to teaching in 1998, as Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women’s Studies

and African-American Studies at Emory University. Cole then served as president of the Bennett College for Women (2002-2007) where she completed a \$50 million campaign, opened an art gallery and initiated programs in Africana women’s studies and global studies.

Cole is the board chair of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute, founded at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C. The mission of the nonprofit institute is to create, communicate and continuously support the case for diversity and inclusion in the workplace through education, training, research and publications.

In 2002, she served as co-curator of the exhibition “Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity” at the Carlos Museum at Emory. Cole has served on the Scholarly Advisory Board of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture since its inception, and she has worked with a number of Smithsonian programs since the mid-1980s. In March 2009 the Smithsonian selected Johnnetta Cole to serve as director of the National Museum of African Art. She oversees 34 staff members and a collection of 9,100 objects in the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the collection, exhibition, conservation and study of the arts of Africa.

Cole has conducted research in Africa, the Caribbean and the United States and has authored several books and scores of scholarly articles. She is author of: *Anthropology for the Eighties: Introductory Readings* (1982), *All American Women: Lives that Divide, Ties that Bind* (1986), *Anthropology for the Nineties* (1988), and *Conversations: Straight Talk with America’s Sister President* (1993). She has been awarded 54 honorary degrees from colleges and universities, including Princeton, Yale, Fisk, Smith and Columbia, and won numerous awards. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Anthropological Association, having delivered its distinguished lecture in 2008. She served on President’s Bill Clinton’s Transition Team for Education, Labor, the Arts and Humanities, and has served as the Chair of the United Way of America.

In addition to her academic duties, Dr. Johnnetta Cole has served on the board of Directors of Home Depot, Merck & Co., Inc., NationsBank South and was the first woman ever elected to the Board of Coca-Cola Enterprises. Cole earned a doctorate degree (1967) and a master’s degree (1959) in anthropology from Northwestern University and a bachelor’s degree (1957) in sociology from Oberlin, after entering Fisk University at age 15.