

## **DOW MLK Event Spotlights Beloved Community**

### **REVEREND MAE CANNON URGES THE PURSUIT OF "BELOVED COMMUNITY" MLK AWARDEES ADVOCATE FOR SPIRIT OF SERVITUDE**

**PITTSBURG, CA-(January 21, 2008)**-Dow Chemical in Pittsburg honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., today with a breakfast for the community and Dow employees. Keynote Speaker, Rev. Mae Cannon (former Director of Development & Transformation at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois and currently serving at Hillside Covenant Church in Walnut Creek), spoke on Dr. King's pursuit of the "beloved community" and how honoring Dr. King, nearly 40 years after his death, proves the value of that goal and the need to continue its pursuit.

"In order for us to pursue a 'beloved community,'" said Cannon, "we need to not only understand but also respect our history." Cannon used slides depicting the discrimination, the segregation, the unjust behavior that were the impetus for many of Dr. King's preachings and speeches. And like Dr. King "we need to be advocates of justice. We need to use our voice and our power on behalf of the oppressed," she stated.

Cannon referenced her experiences working with the oppressed in the Chicago area, with death row inmates at Louisiana's Angola Prison and with the victims of Hurricane Katrina, to drive home Dr. King's message - that we are "God's children."

As a man of God, Dr. King believed in the unity of all people. "And though we are honoring him today, this day is not a black holiday. It is a day for Blacks, Whites, Asians, Latinos - all people of color - to come together," Cannon continued.

In addition to Cannon's remarks, the Dow Martin Luther King Jr. Community Award was presented by Supervisor Federal Glover to German Medina, a Bay Point resident who has been working for more than eight years to give the youth of Bay Point a future. As the creator of a new Youth Employment Services program, Medina is giving hope to many of the disenfranchised young people who have expressed their frustration with getting help to find jobs and prepare for higher education. As a young man himself, his dedication to the community is laudable.

The Dow Martin Luther King Employee Award was presented to Rosa Sanchez-Yokoyama who has worked for more than 17 years to further and promote the Japanese-American Culture. She is also actively involved in the Girls Scouts, with her church, with the Monument Crisis Center and with numerous activities on behalf of Dow Chemical. Her remarks punctuated her belief that she is "a servant" and that we can all be servants, no matter what our circumstances, education, wealth or beliefs.

Mia Zuniga provided an incredible selection off her soon-to-be-released CD entitled "Stories Such as These." A Pittsburg native, Zuniga's music career was launched after

connecting with several people at Los Medanos College. Her soulful, R&B sounds had the audience of 150 mesmerized.

To close the celebration, Keith Archuleta read excerpts from Dr. King's "I have a Dream" speech. With the rich southern accent, the cadence of a preacher and the feeling for Dr. King's words, Archuleta brought the spirit of Dr. King right into the midst of the holiday event. More than one attendee was heard to say it gave them chills.

The Dow Martin Luther King Day celebration has been held for more than eight years and is intended to not only honor Dr. King and his legacy but to recognize those within our East County community who embody his spirit, promoting unity and harmony in our community.

### **About The Dow Chemical Company**

Dow is a diversified chemical company that harnesses the power of science and technology to improve living daily. The Company offers a broad range of innovative products and services to customers in more than 175 countries, helping them to provide everything from fresh water, food and pharmaceuticals to paints, packaging and personal care products. Built on a commitment to its principles of sustainability, Dow has annual sales of \$46 billion and employs 42,000 people worldwide. References to "Dow" or the "Company" mean The Dow Chemical Company and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted.