

# In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, CCD Salutes Living Legends

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jan. 10, 2014**

(Denver, CO) In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Community College of Denver (CCD) presents a Salute to Living Legends George and Marjorie Morrison and bestows a new award, CCD Champion, to former CCD interim president, Cliff Richardson. The awards will be presented in a public ceremony on Tuesday, January 21.

The Salute to Living Legends is a formal recognition of Denver residents who have contributed to the Denver community, are committed to equality for all people, and have championed diversity in the workplace, in education, in government and in the neighborhoods.

The 2014 Salute to Living Legends recipients are George and Marjorie Morrison.

A Denver native and graduate of Manual High School, George Morrison is a University of Denver (DU) graduate completing graduate work at Stanford University and DU. Serving in the Pacific during World War II, George was later with Denver Public Schools (DPS) as a teacher, coach and administrator from 1953 to 1977, and as district administrative director for secondary education from 1977-1989. Breaking down barriers, Morrison became the first African American elementary school assistant principal in DPS. A community and human rights activist, in 1969 Morrison later was appointed by Governor John Love to the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, holding both chair and vice chair positions. Morrison also founded the Denver All Stars Track Team and in 1996 was inducted into the DPS Athletic Department Coaches Hall of Fame.

Marjorie Morrison has had a life filled with “firsts.” She was the first African American stenographer for the Colorado State Senate; the first African American mayoral appointee in 1955 when Mayor W.F. Nicholson named her to his secretarial staff; as Republican district captain for the Park Hill neighborhood in 1960, Marjorie was able to recruit federal employees to serve as election judges, thereby integrating polling places in the city; and as crew leader for the 1960 census, Marjorie recruited and trained her team, creating the only African American team of census takers in Denver. She is responsible for two African American’s being honored in the 1959 city wide centennial celebration and in 1971 she was appointed by the governor to a seven year term on the Second Judicial Nominating Commission. During that time she encouraged African American attorneys to apply for judgeships resulting in the appointments of the first African American Juvenile Court Judge and the first African American Supreme Court Justice. Attending the University of Denver School of Commerce as a Secretarial Science major, Marjorie served six Denver mayoral administrations from 1947 to 1987.

The first recipient of the CCD Champion Award, created to honor an individual committed to higher education and equality is former CCD Interim President Cliff Richardson. In 2013, Richardson ended his 35 year career with the Colorado Community College System at CCD. Tirelessly devoted to CCD and its students, Richardson postponed his retirement to serve CCD and brought to the college a new energy, a renewed commitment to diversity and a vision for the future.

The CCD Salute to Living Legends has been sanctioned as an official Martin Luther King Jr. Day event by the Colorado Martin Luther King Holiday Commission.

The CCD Salute to Living Legends and Champion Award will be Tuesday, January 21, 2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. in the Confluence Assembly Rooms on the Auraria campus, 800 Curtis Street. The event is free and open to the public.

*Community College of Denver (CCD) is a leading point of entry to higher education for the City and County of Denver. CCD provides a cost effective college education, along with access and opportunity for non-traditional students, workforce development and training resources for local organizations, and community partnerships. For more information, visit [www.CCD.edu](http://www.CCD.edu) Information on occupations, rates for completion and placement, program costs and median loan debt can be found at [www.ccd.edu/gainfulemployment](http://www.ccd.edu/gainfulemployment)*