

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

November 2013

Dear MSU Community Member:

As 2014 draws near, we approach two special anniversaries of pivotal times in our nation's history: the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. the Topeka Board of Education* and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (CRA of 1964). These milestones give each of us reason to pause to reflect on their significance, to share our opinions, and to learn and grow. Throughout 2014, Michigan State University will commemorate them with **Project 60/50**, a year-long, community-wide conversation linking academic exploration and study with public remembrance.

The anniversaries seemed a natural fit for Michigan State and a prime opportunity to create an initiative that allows us to promote conversations around issues and values that are important to the MSU community. Our university is uniquely positioned to acknowledge the role that former MSU President John A. Hannah played in the passage of the CRA of 1964 when he was appointed the first chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1957.



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Conversations are the driving form of communication behind **Project 60/50** because they allow for the emergence of ideas, personal reflections, and varied opinions. Beginning in January 2014 and ending in January 2015, the public is invited to join these conversations to cultivate greater understanding of, and respect for, our differences. Conversations will be intertwined with a variety of events and cultural expressions focused on civil rights and human rights.

Project 60/50 has no political agenda. It advocates only for the equal exchange of ideas and offers opportunities that are inclusive, showcasing our many intellectual talents in respectful ways. We welcome everyone to participate! Visit the project website—inclusion.msu.edu/Project6050—to learn more and to connect with an existing **60/50** program, create a new program, or adopt a new concept under the canopy of **Project 60/50** by completing a survey form.

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Lou Anna K. Simon, Ph.D.
President

Handwritten signature of Paulette Granberry Russell in green ink.

Paulette Granberry Russell
Senior Adviser to the President for Diversity