Dear colleagues,

On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I am mindful of one of the many hopeful, reassuring messages that the reverend shared during his life, including one that is inscribed on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. “We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” he said in 1968. In many ways, as faculty and staff at an institution of higher learning, we are committed to walking that arc, no matter how far the distance, in the hopes that every student at this university receives the opportunities and support they need to achieve success here, and after they leave.

As I see it, sharing knowledge is fundamental to making “a career of humanity,” as Dr. King advised in the years before he visited the University of Utah. Each time we extend dignity, respect and understanding to each other, we strengthen our community and create an environment where all can thrive. Our diversity of experiences, perspectives and identities make us stronger and better able to have greater impact on the world’s problems. This week, I hope you will have the opportunity to participate in the many events planned for Martin Luther King, Jr. Week (MLK Week) at the U. I look forward to seeing you there, and continuing to work together to build Dr. King’s vision for our country.