

# 'Press beyond the dream,' speaker tells MLK crowd

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CNN analyst Roland Martin gives his views on the MLK speak before taking the stage at the TD convention center in Greenville for the MLK Dream weekend, January 13, 2012. / PATRICK COLLARD/Staff

MLK Dream Weekend diversity banquet speaker Roland Martin said Friday night that those who want to draw on the civil rights leader's real message need to press beyond the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Martin said the "top two-thirds of the speech was about an economic agenda."

Martin, an author and commentator on TV One Cable Network, said people need to take the time and read the entire speech to get his message and that he sometimes gets "annoyed by people who haven't read the entire speech."

In an interview before his speech, he said it is important to do more than just have an annual banquet. "People want to feel good," he said, which he said is fine but King wanted far more.

He said those who want to honor King need to roll up their sleeves and really make contributions. He also said people who really listen need to embrace some of the ideas expressed by those involved with the "Occupy Wall Street" demonstrations.

Martin said people organizing the rally when King gave his memorable speech were pushing "for jobs, not (just) a march on Washington."

King, he said, was in Memphis organizing for jobs, the same issue facing America today.

"King was focused on an economic agenda when he got killed," Martin said.

Martin is a national syndicated columnist, an analyst for CNN News and can be heard in the Upstate on the Tom Joyner Morning Show on WJMZ- 107.3 FM radio. He played a role in last year's dedication of the King Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The seventh annual MLK Dream Weekend event was held at the TD Convention Center in Greenville. Organizers said 1,000 tickets were sold.

Organizers provided 11 scholarships, totaling \$45,000, and they were awarded to "young dreamers" and "Coretta Scott King dreamers."

The presidents of Furman University and Greenville Tech awarded some scholarships. Also, representatives of Clemson University, Michelin North America and USC Upstate awarded scholarships.

Overseen by Hands on Greenville, activities today include a "community service day" from 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. For more information, go to: [www.mlkdreamweekend.com](http://www.mlkdreamweekend.com)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20120112/NEWS/301120063/-Press-beyond-dream-speaker-tells-MLK-crowd>