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**MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF  
1st ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Minneapolis, January 15, 2008 – Today, on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) is pleased to announce that Kim Buckner, a second year MCTC student, has been chosen to receive a \$3,000 scholarship as winner of the First Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award. Ms. Buckner moved to the Twin Cities three years ago from a small town outside of Seattle. She works full time at Moltron Enterprises, Inc., located in the Camden/Webber neighborhood, and also attends MCTC full time.

While in high school in Washington, Ms. Buckner took several college level courses, but did not pursue her education upon graduation. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do so I didn’t go to college,” she explains. “I was also a perfectionist – I didn’t want to do something for fear I might fail.” But last year, after an extended break from school, she decided it was time to “just try something.” She enrolled at MCTC and knew that she wanted to pursue writing, but didn’t know what she wanted to write. Her first semester, she took classes that sounded interesting to her – philosophy, anthropology, sociology and an intercultural communications class. These classes made her realize she would like to pursue a writing career in the field of social science. She would eventually like to transfer to the University of Minnesota or possibly a college in Washington.

Ms. Buckner's father serves as an inspiration to her. "He grew up in a poor neighborhood and wanted a different life. He always talked to my brother and me about the importance of education. And, he told us to be leaders, not followers," she says. Ms. Buckner also believes in the importance of giving back. During fall semester, she worked as a tutor in MCTC's Learning Center. And this spring, she plans to volunteer at Homework 'n'Hoops, a non-profit mentoring program located in South Minneapolis.

In her scholarship essay, Ms. Buckner wrote about leading by example and lifestyle. She is African American and Korean American, a woman, a wife and as a student. She wants to be a positive role model and leader so that others may have the courage and conviction to dream more, learn more, do more and become more.

Any student who was registered for nine or more credits at MCTC for spring semester 2008 was eligible to apply for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Leadership award. The criteria were:

- The student must serve as a positive role model within the community and for the college.
- The student must have the ability to work with others, especially where there are differences of culture, beliefs and goals.
- The student must demonstrate skills in planning and implementation, gathering data, assessing needs, and accomplishing goals.
- The student must show a proven commitment to leadership in self and others.

The \$3,000 scholarship is the largest awarded through the college foundation and is among the most competitive because it is available to all students but awarded to only one student leader.

The funding is provided by Target Corporation, based on its longstanding commitment to education and Dr. King's values of equality, respect and commitment to community responsibility. "We're extraordinarily pleased with Target's generosity and the quality of

student leaders who applied for this scholarship,” states College Foundation Executive Director Reede Webster.

MCTC has presented its Annual ‘Celebrate the Dream’ Birthday Tribute to Dr. King for 18 years. “The theme of this year’s event is the Next Generation of Leadership,” explains Broderick Powell, MCTC’s Director of Multicultural Student Success, who was a member of the MLK Student Leadership Scholarship Review Committee, “and Ms. Buckner exemplifies the type of student we were hoping would apply. She is actively engaged in her school and her community and her actions inspire others to get involved.”

#### About MCTC:

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers students a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum and more than 60 career and occupational programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 11,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

#### About Target

Target believes in the power of partnerships with leading cultural institutions to foster creativity, promote learning and build stronger communities. When Target opened its first store in 1962, it was with a strong commitment to support and empower the communities its stores serve. Today, that tradition is reflected in the Target grant-making program, through which Target gives back more than \$3 million each week to communities across the country with a focus on the arts, education and safe families and communities. Target is proud to continue its partnership with MCTC for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual “Celebrate the Dream” birthday tribute

to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a company, Target is dedicated to supporting and practicing Dr. King's values of equality, respect, and commitment to community responsibility and continues to honor his Legacy through volunteerism and community giving. Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at 1,591 stores in 47 states nationwide.

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