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OVER 400 EXPECTED TO CELEBRATE LEGACY AWARDS AT MLK BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 21, 2010

(Sacramento) – Over 400 people, including Members of the California State Legislature, California Constitutional Officers, and other government and business dignitaries will attend the Second Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award Breakfast on January 21, 2010. **Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda)**, Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, and **Senator Curren Price, Jr. (D-Inglewood)**, Vice-Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus will present the four honorees and formally recognize each for their stellar contributions to Dr. King's legacy of work. Following are brief biographies of each of the honorees:

Dr. William H. Lee is a legend in the field of journalism and a leader in the Sacramento community and throughout the nation. Dr. Lee is the founder and publisher of the *Observer Newspapers*, which he founded in 1962 to provide high-quality publications and media services for African-American audiences. He was also Chair of the statewide Governor-appointed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and played a pivotal role in making Dr. King's birth a day of recognition in the state. Dr. Lee's publications are recognized as some of the most resourceful and educational African-American publications in the nation. *The Observer* has been recognized as the Most Honored Black newspaper in the nation and has received over 600 local and national awards.

Sherry Hirota, has provided her leadership as Chief Executive Officer of Asian Health Services (AHS) in Oakland since 1983. As the CEO of Asian Health Services, AHS has developed from a staff of nine and budget of \$100,000 to a model multicultural and multilingual primary care clinic with a staff of 220 and annual budget of \$18 million. Hirota is an advocate and pioneer and world-renowned for her national experience and expertise in public health policy and advocacy.

Sherry Hirota has served as an advisor to congressional leaders on health issues ranging from strategies for urban health policy to language access standards. She won Woman of the Year for the 16th Assembly District of California and Outstanding Woman of the Year in Health. Hirota is a public leader whose meritorious service to the labor movement and health advocacy for the poor exemplify the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dolores Huerta, President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, is a legendary activist in the civil rights and labor movements and a devoted leader advocating for the working poor, women and

children. She has contributed extensively to the people of the state through her many personal, professional, and civic activities. She is well-known for the pivotal role she played in co-founding the National Farm Workers Union in 1962 with the late Cesar Chavez.

Dolores Huerta has received many honors, including The Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton and Kern County's Woman of the Year by the California State Legislature.

Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., keynote speaker of the event, is a nationally recognized and celebrated theologian carrying on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by using the gospel to empower the underserved.

He has contributed extensively to the people of the State through his many personal, professional, and civic activities. He serves as a dynamic role model for all people who believe in the obligation to improve the quality of life for future generations.

Dr Smith Sr., for two consecutive years was one of Ebony Magazine's Most Influential Black Americans, and was among the magazine's Top 15 Greatest Black Preachers of 1993. He testified before the United Nations against South African apartheid in 1989; he lectured at Oxford in 2004; Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger named him to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors in 2007; Dr. Smith is a past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and of the American Baptist Churches of the West.

Speaker-elect Assemblymember John Pérez will make opening remarks on the significance of King's legacy and its relevance during these tough economic times and circumstances. There will be a special performance by the **Young Adult Choir of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. (GMWA)**. GMWA was founded in 1967 and is the largest artistic organization of its kind in the world.

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