

MLK TODAY: FILMMAKER JUDY RICHARDSON AND CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN CARRY DR. KING'S MESSAGE FORWARD.



MLK Day speaker Judy Richardson (center) with Jonathan Barbee '04 (left) and Anthony Riley '04 (right), members of the Academy's Martin Luther King Day Committee.

Jonathan Barbee '04 put it best when he said the challenge of the Academy's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration—a daylong series of speakers, workshops and performances held on January 16—is to “reinvent Dr. King's passion and love of equality and righteousness in the modern age.” MLK keynote speaker Judy Richardson was uniquely qualified to do just that. As a college student in the early 1960s, she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helped register voters throughout the South; as an adult, she became a documentary filmmaker and co-produced *Eyes on the Prize*, the landmark PBS history of the civil rights movement, and *Malcolm X: Make It Plain*. Said Barbee: “She has preserved the activism of the past so that it might survive today.” The best way to thank her, he told the audience, is “to take her message and apply it to our own lives.”

On January 19, the Academy welcomed another veteran of the civil rights movement, Marian Wright Edelman, who directed the NAACP's Legal Defense and Education Fund office in Jackson, MS, during the mid-1960s. Today, as founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, Edelman has become the country's best-known advocate for children and disadvantaged families. Saying that our country's “standard for success has become personal greed rather than common good,” she called upon students to ask “not how much can I get, but how much can I share; not how can I find myself, but how can I lose myself in service?”



Children's Defense Fund founder and president Marian Wright Edelman (right) meets with students following her assembly talk.