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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Lonnie King Revisits ITC's Civil Rights Legacy  
Seminary Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***



(September 1, 2007- Atlanta, GA) The civil rights legacy of the historic Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) will be the focus of the President's Chapel service on Tuesday September 11 at 11 a.m. in the ITC Chapel as the seminary community, a consortium of six denominational seminaries, will join together to reflect on the impact of the many civil and social contributions of the ITC in the Atlanta community and beyond since its inception in 1958.

This chapel service is a continuation of a series of events in the year-long 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Atlanta based world premiere academy of afro-centric graduate theological education that prepares Christian leaders in academic excellence for global ministry.

The guest speaker will be Lonnie C. King Jr., a noted civil rights activist, community organizer, historian, educator, leader and entrepreneur, and one who had a close relationship with Dr. Harry V. Richardson, the founding president of the Interdenominational Theological Center. A native of Georgia, educated in the public schools of Atlanta, he furthered his passion for education as a graduate of Morehouse College (Atlanta), University of Baltimore (Baltimore, Maryland) earning the masters in Public Administration, and currently is pursuing a Ph.D. in History at Georgia State University (Atlanta).

Mr. King was a founder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1966 at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. His extensive experience and social activism spans more than five decades of service to others. His early preparation as a Morehouse College student leader, organizer and activist has been foundational to his "call" to serve and champion the cause of the poor, powerless and disenfranchised.

Mr. King is a former college athlete and a United States Navy veteran. Following the completion of his degree at Morehouse College, he moved to the Washington, D. C. area and was elected by his peers as the first African American president of the Young Democrats in the nation's capital. To this end, he played a critical role in the "Home Rule Movement" in D.C. which later resulted in the selection and election of the area's first African American mayor and majority African-American city council. These efforts had major impact and have been replicated across the United States in many communities among the electorate.

Mr. King has served as former president of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP. Among many of his accomplishments as president are actively challenging the dominate media in the late 60's to increase the number of on and off-camera contributions by media professionals. Today, there have been tremendous gains by talented minority professionals in all media in metro Atlanta and the entire United States.

Lonnie King was in the forefront of numerous social action and civil litigations, at the very center of the Civil Rights Movement in metro Atlanta and the southeastern region. He was an advocate of change, equality, social justice, inclusion and fairness for all and worked with the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on various non-violent efforts.

Also, during his tenure as president of the NAACP he led the effort to hire the Atlanta Public School's first African American Superintendent, Dr. Alfonzo Crim, and made many gains insisting on a significant increase in the number of people of color in leadership positions throughout the public school system.

His teaching acumen in history in general and African-American History in particular are noteworthy. Mr. King has served in several higher education positions including adjunct professor, lecturer in history, and is often called upon as a public speaker.

Currently, Mr. King is president and CEO of the Onyx Development Co., LLC with responsibility for the company's overall asset management in real estate development and construction. He serves on several boards and organizations with a particular interest in public education initiatives and is the recipient of numerous awards and citations for his enormous volunteerism, community activism and leadership endeavors.

Mr. King is married to Dr. Ora Sterling King, a former dean in higher education. They are the proud parents of four children, eight grand children and one great grand child. Mr. and Dr. King reside in Northeast Atlanta.

The chapel service is open to the public and there is no admission charge. For further information and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration activities, 404-527-7718 or go to [www.itc.edu](http://www.itc.edu).

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