U.S. Representative John Lewis to Deliver National Labor College Commencement Address

Silver Spring, MD, June 5, 2013 – National Labor College (NLC) is honored to announce that U.S. Rep. John Lewis, often called “one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced,” will receive an honorary degree and deliver the commencement address at this year’s graduation ceremony.

Since being inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rep. Lewis has been a champion of progressive social movements and the human rights struggle in the United States.

“The labor movement and the civil rights movement have long and deep roots together. We appreciate and admire Congressman Lewis’ passionate commitment to fighting for all working people,” said AFL-CIO President and NLC Board President Richard Trumka.

“We are so pleased that a man with such a rich history of fighting for so many of our causes will be here to share his remarkable experiences and knowledge with our community,” said NLC President Dr. Paula E. Peinovich.

Rep. Lewis is the recipient of numerous awards from prominent national and international institutions, including the highest civilian honor granted by President Barack Obama, the Medal of Freedom, and the only John F. Kennedy "Profile in Courage Award" for Lifetime Achievement ever granted by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

Rep. Lewis holds a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University, and he is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been awarded more than 50 honorary degrees from prestigious colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Graduation will take place Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies in Linthicum, Maryland.

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About National Labor College

National Labor College (NLC) is one of a kind, the only college in the United States with an exclusive mission to serve the educational needs of the labor movement. The College respects that its student body is made up of experienced, highly skilled working adults who have multiple commitments to family, job, union, and community. In its academic programs, NLC honors higher learning that takes place both inside and outside the collegiate community. The College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, an independent, regional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (3624 Market Street, 2nd Floor West, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (267) 284–5000).