

Alem Habtu

I would like to officially welcome all of you to this conference on Malcolm X, on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of his birth. As you know, this is the second meeting of the Malcolm X Work Group. The first one we had at the City University Center on East 80th Street last January. And for supporting both conferences, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Chancellor Joseph Murphy of the City University of New York who has helped us in initiating this project. The idea for the project was initially conceived by Abdul Alkalimat and Bill Sales. They approached me in terms of trying to establish affiliation with the City University and through the support of the chancellor and the Africana Studies Research Institute at Queens College, we were able to initiate this process. Temporarily the work group is housed at the Africana Studies Research Institute at Queens College. As Director of the Institute, I'm very happy that it is set up that way for the time being. As we all know, the study of Malcolm X is very important and as time goes on, I think more and more people are recognizing the significance of Malcolm X, not only as an Afro-American revolutionary, but as an internationalist and so I am very happy that this conference is taking place and I hope that we will have more educational programs in the future. And for now, I'd like to introduce Gerald McWorter to give some introductory remarks.