



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HOLIDAY COMMISSION
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Howard County Government, Calvin Ball County Executive
Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer
Yolanda F. Sonnier, Office of Human Rights & Equity Administrator

September 15, 2023

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirit!

On behalf of the Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity and the Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, I am inviting your students, their families, and your staff to participate in four exciting contests.

Each year the MLK Holiday Commission recognizes students, individuals, and organizations with several contest and awards. Our student contests include a Poster, Essay, and Oratory for grades Kindergarten through 12. Contestants must generate original artwork, essays, and speeches that highlight Dr. King's visionary track record of service to human rights and this year's theme. The "Living the Dream Award" celebrates individuals and organizations whose outreach efforts are in alignment with Dr. King's message and vision. This year's theme submissions and award nomination is **"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."** The closing date for contest is October 18, 2023.

The Celebration will be held Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Howard Community College Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center, Smith Theatre, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD 21044. Contest and award winners will be recognized with a certificate and cash prize.

The tribute to Dr. King continues Monday, January 15, 2024, with the Day of Service, a county-wide volunteer- effort in partnership with numerous community organizations. Numerous organizations will have on-site volunteer activities for individuals and families in addition to off-site service opportunities.

I hope you will partner with the Office of Human Rights & Equity and the MLK Commission by sharing the attached fliers with students, staff and families and enabling us to get a variety of diverse variety of winning candidates.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kurt Wall, Chair
Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

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