

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Essay Contest

Essay Winners



- Anh-Tuyet Nguyen - BC Owosso, School of Nursing
- Timeisha Vanderstelt - BC Muskegon, School of Nursing
- Oluseyi Gabriel - BC Royal Oak, School of Nursing
- Megan Pastoor - BC Muskegon, College of Health Sciences
- Tyneshia McFarland - BC Online, College of Business
- Jillian Dokter - BC Muskegon, School of Nursing
- Miriam Ezzeddine - BC Online, College of Business
- Destinee Harvey - BC Owosso, School of Nursing
- Gretchen Soechting - BC Muskegon, College of Health Sciences
- Tara Stemple - BS Online, College of Engineering and Information Technology

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Anh-Tuyet Nguyen



“Taking control of our education and perseverance for knowledge will help each of us unite. [...]

Taking advantage of our educational system will empower each of us and bring us closer as a unit.”



Timeisha Vanderstelt



“For now, I will continue to hold close to my heart all the good I see, all the headway that’s been made to allow us the freedoms we have, and all the education and learning that is happening. Without these things we are merely stuck where we’ve always been.”



Oluseyi Gabriel



“Hope is an aspect
humanity greatly relies on
for survival.”



Megan Pastoor



“While a daunting one, creating real and positive change in America is not an impossible task. When each individual educates, examines, and takes positive and immediate action, we will begin to see the America we all hope to have, become a reality.”



Tyneshia McFarland



“...how can we begin to love each other? I’ll tell you how, when you start to care for others and do good things, do right by people around you and people not around you, you’ll start to feel good about you, who you are as a person, the good things that you do, you do it, not looking to be rewarded, but because it’s who you are. Harbor not hate in your heart, but love. Give with a big heart, receive with an even bigger heart.”



Jillian Dokter



“What if rather than assuming we know the answers from a place of privilege, we humbled ourselves to a posture of learning? The way we approach the fight for justice would look vastly different if we listened to the people we feel we are fighting for.”



Miriam Ezzeddine



“[Dr. Martin Luther King Junior’s] actions and life should serve as a reference point for us all with the determination to fight for a worthy moral course. Our unification against racial inequality and push for peace will determine whether the coming generation will still be subject to prejudice.”



Destinee Harvey



“As a society there are many ways, we can stand united to fight against racism and towards an equitable future for generations to come. This starts by examining and understanding personal biases, opinions, and personal privileges.”



Gretchen Soechting



“...the only way to advance is forward, and the only way to do that is by exhibiting an iota of the courage and persistence of those who’ve come before. I can persevere in holding up Black voices and experiences and learning what it means to advocate truthfully and effectively and hold anyone else who will listen to the same practice.”



Tara Stemple



“Together we can shape a world in which no one feels like they need to hide, in which no one feels like they need to change to be accepted by society. However, it will not be easy, but the movements have begun, and the wheels are turning.”





Baker College immensely appreciates each and every student who took the time to write an essay. We are filled with pride by Baker College students' commitment to creating a more just society.

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Thank you!

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