

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LOCAL YOUTH AWARDS

This competition awards local youth essay, poetry and visual art submissions that best represent the theme of the 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, **Let Us March On**. This theme stems from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech "Our God is Marching On" that he delivered on March 25, 1965 on the steps of the State Capitol Building at the conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery march. This 54-mile march had 25,000 participants protesting the racism and oppression that African Americans faced at the polls while exercising their constitutional right to vote.

"...I want to say to the people of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around. We are on the move now... The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of brotherhood, the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All entries must reflect the sentiment shared by Dr. King's speech, must embody his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, AND must align with mission and values of the student's represented agency/school. Entries should not include any vulgar language or potentially offensive or explicit materials/images.

Award Categories:

- **Essay**

750 - 1,000 words

- **Poetry**

500 words or less

- **Visual Arts**

Can be traditional art (drawing, painting, sculptures, mixed media, etc.) or digital art (video of musical performance, other video, 2-D or 3-D graphics, digital photography, digital collages, etc.)



<https://tiny.cc/MLKYouthAwards>

Submit Your Application Here!

Deadline:
NOVEMBER 24
12 p.m.



Questions? Contact the Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub at 618-650-2686.

For individuals needing auxiliary aids for communication or physical access accommodations, contact ACCESS at 618-650-3726 or email myaccess@siue.edu in advance of your participation. This material will be made available in alternative formats upon request.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE