

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Oratorical Scholarship Contest  
For  
High School Seniors  
2020 – 2021**



**Sponsored by:  
The City of Sanford Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration  
Committee, Inc.  
In Partnership with  
Seminole State College  
Sanford, Florida**

**2020 – 2021 High School Seniors  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Scholarship  
Contest Guidelines**

Event Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Seminole State College  
100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford, Florida 32773  
This event may become virtual due to Covid 19

Deadline to submit application and speech: December 21, 2020

Sponsored by: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee  
Sanford, Florida  
In Partnership with Seminole State College  
Sanford, Florida

Contact: Oratorical Chairman Mr. Kenneth Bentley – (321) 262-5075

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship fund is to honor Dr. King’s accomplishments as well as encourage our youth, through education and experience, to continue to strive to become productive citizens and give back to their communities through seeking higher education beyond high school. We are encouraging Seminole County high school seniors who plan to attend a college or university to participate in an Oratorical Contest to receive scholarship funds.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee will offer a scholarship to the first, second and third place winners. If one of these winners attend Seminole State College, they will be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. If the first, second, or third place winner does not want to attend Seminole State College this scholarship will be offered to the next contestant.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Candidate must be a high school senior planning to attend a college or university after graduation;
- Candidate must currently have a 2.5 overall GPA earned in high school;
- Candidate must submit a copy of his/her speech along with a completed application by December 21, 2020.

**ORATORICAL CONTEST TOPICS (you must choose one):**

- “In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education.” Do you agree or disagree and explain your answer?
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” Discuss whether or not you agree with this statement and where we should go from here.

- A quote made by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., says “A life is sacred. Property is intended to serve life, and no matter how much we surround it with rights and respect it has no personal being. It is part of the earth man walks on, it is not man.” Explain the difference between insurrections, riots, and looting. How do each relate to the protest of today when millions have lost their jobs or are facing evictions and violence?

## **GUIDELINES**

- Candidates must write an original speech (oral presentation of between 5 – 7 minutes) and present a copy along with their application. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.
- Candidate must perform an oral presentation (memorization of speech) without any notes on one of the contest topics.
- Candidate will be judged on content, originality, and presentation. Oration must be performed on contest topics.

**COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET**  
**Saturday, January 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sanford Civic Center**  
**401 E. Seminole Boulevard, Sanford, Florida 32771**  
**This event may become virtual due to Covid 19**

We encourage all candidates and parents/sponsors to attend our Annual Commemorative Banquet. There is always a dynamic speaker and a buffet dinner will be served. All candidates will be provided two tickets, one for the student and one for a parent, to the banquet. Any additional tickets must be purchased. All candidates will be given award certificates at the banquet.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

- Scholarship funds will be given to candidates after they have received their fall semester class schedules from their college. Scholarship winners and a parent must sign a Release of Funds document verifying the student’s enrollment status, scholarship amount, and intention to use the funds to defray college expenses.
- It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide any change of address or new phone number to the scholarship contact person.

## **DISCLAIMER**

- Scholarship funds must be claimed by the end of the student’s first academic year in college following graduation. Otherwise, the funds will be forfeited.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Scholarship Contest**  
**Application**  
**2020 – 2021 Academic School Year**  
**High School Seniors Only**

**\*\*\*Application Deadline: December 21, 2020\*\*\***  
**(Please Print)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/County \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Expected High School Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**GOALS**

Describe your future plans and career you wish to pursue. Include college/university you plan to attend.

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**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Summarize your school activities emphasizing those that helped to develop citizenship. Include the most important activity and all offices you have held.

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

List community service activities that demonstrate your leadership involvement and abilities.

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**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

What do you feel are your greatest accomplishments so far?

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Explain how receiving this scholarship will make a difference in your life and also briefly explain how you plan to give back to your community after college.

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Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please be sure to fill out the entire application and obtain all signatures. Also, submit a copy of your speech and make a copy for yourself.**

*For additional information, please call:*

*Mr. Kenneth Bentley, Oratorical Scholarship Chairman  
(321) 262-5075*

*Send documents to:*

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Steering Committee  
Oratorical Scholarship Contest  
P. O. Box 500  
Sanford, FL 32772-0500**