

CO-SPONSORS  
TALLAHASSEE BRANCH NAACP AND LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

*REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.*  
**COMMEMORATIVE BREAKFAST PROGRAM**  
**“The Power of the Dream: Justice for All!”**



**CELEBRATING**  
THE  
**DREAMERS AND DOERS**  
OF LEON COUNTY

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**HONORABLE JESSICA J. YEARY, ESQ.**

DONALD L TUCKER CIVIC CENTER  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**FRIDAY JANUARY 12, 2024 7:00 AM**

MUTAQEE AKBAR, PRESIDENT  
TALLAHASSEE BRANCH NAACP

ROCKY HANNA, SUPERINTENDENT  
LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS



Mutaqee Akbar, Esq.  
Mutaqee Akbar, Esq.  
President



Mr. Rocky Hanna  
Superintendent of Schools



**2024 NAACP**  
**Citywide Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

- 9:00 AM:** Rev. Charles K. Steele Commemoration Celebration  
**C.K. Steele Bus Plaza (StarMetro)**  
111. W. Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Speaker: Dr. Tiffany Packer
- 10:30 -10:45 AM:** Symbolic March from CK Steele to the Florida State Capitol
- 11:00 AM** Citywide MLK Program  
**Florida State Capitol**  
400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Speakers: Attorneys Daryl Parks & Chuck Hobbs (Hobbservation Point)



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Breakfast Program  
**Dreamers and Doers**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by  
James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

During the 2023 MLK Commemorative Breakfast the Dreamers and Doers Awards was renamed and dedicated to, retired Leon County School Administrators instrumental in the establishment, development and continued collaboration with the Tallahassee Chapter of the NAACP in recognizing students in Leon County who have the unwavering traits of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Dr. Malinda Jackson James**

*Elementary School Dreamers and Doers*

Dr. Malinda Jackson-James retired from the Leon County School District after a stellar 35-year career in the education arena. These years included ten years as an elementary classroom teacher, five years as the district's first Affirmative Action & Recruitment Specialist; four and one-half years as its first Coordinator for Equity/Recruitment; nine years as its first Director of Equal Opportunity Programs, and six years as its "first African American", Executive Director of Employee Relations/Recruitment & Equity. For several years, she served as a member of the Planning Committee for the "Annual MLK Breakfast."



Upon retiring from the Leon County School District, she served three-years as an Adjunct Professor, the Coordinator for Teacher Induction and Director of the National Board Resource Center, all at Florida A&M University's College of Education. Additionally, she has served for 35 consecutive years to date, as the Director for the Community-Based Tallahassee Area Coalition Center of Excellence, in Partnership with the Leon County School District and the Florida Education Fund.

Currently, Dr. Jackson-James is CEO of her own independent consulting business, M.W. James & Associates, LLC., as well as being involved in several local organizations. She is the President of The Leon County Chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated- Alpha Upsilon Zeta Chapter (former President), Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, FAMU Boosters, Leon Wakulla Retired Educators, Florida State University Alumni Association and actively involved as a member of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as Chair of the Africare Ministry and the Ministry of Compassion. Her greatest joy is her role as mother of two adult daughters and five grandchildren: 7 years of age to 22 years of age.



## **Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers**

*Middle School, High School and  
Special Schools Dreamers and Doers*

Dr. Kathleen Rodgers retired from Leon County Schools in 2022. She is a career educator with almost four decades of experience serving in extensive leadership roles. During her tenure, she was a teacher, assistant principal, principal, an Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Prevention, Intervention, Equity and Support Services. Over the course of her career, she received many recognitions for her dedication, commitment, and passion for the profession, including being chosen as Leon County Schools Teacher of the Year, the Ida S. Baker Minority Educator of the Year, and The Glenn-Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year. While she was the principal of Kate Sullivan Elementary School, she had the honor of leading a two-time National Blue Ribbon School. Under her leadership, she was instrumental in bringing Bellevue Middle School from a "D" grade to within a few points of a "B" grade. Dr. Rodgers is the founder of the SHARPE Project (Shaping and Helping Adolescents to be Responsible, Positive, and Excellent). The SHARPE project was designed to reduce the rate of students recommended for expulsion by teaming them with mentors.

Dr. Rodgers' commitment to meeting the needs of all students is unparalleled. She has an extensive track record of supporting the local community through meaningful volunteer work by serving on the Capital City Youth Services Board and on the Board of the African Caribbean Dance Theatre. In addition, she has spearheaded multiple clothing and blanket donation drives in support of Grace Mission and so much more.

## Public Defender Jessica Yeary, Second Judicial Circuit

Attorney Jessica Yeary is the Public Defender for Florida's Second Judicial Circuit. This includes Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson and Liberty counties. A criminal defense attorney for over a decade, she is Board Certified in Criminal Trial Law and proudly served two terms as President of the Tallahassee Chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has defended thousands of clients accused of a broad range of crimes from initial arrests to jury trials. She spent her early years as an assistant public defender – defending over 200 clients at a time in county court – before being promoted to circuit court where she represented clients in the felony division.



She was elected in 2020, and continues to handle cases in the courtroom, currently defending all of the children charged as adults in her office. In 2023, she won the Tallahassee Bar Association's Richard W. Ervin Equal Justice Award for her unwavering commitment to indigent defense.

Attorney Yeary frequently educates students in the community about the criminal legal system. Her team works with the scholars of the Pre-Law Magnet Academy of Legal Studies at R. Frank Nims Middle School. Her office also works with Florida State University through an internship program for undergraduate students. The Public Defender's Office is routinely engaged in community events and strives to connect their clients with supportive resources and non-profit organizations.

She was born and raised in Cape Coral, Florida and attended the University of Florida and Stetson University College of Law. She is married to Attorney Ryan Yeary of Caminez & Yeary PA in Monticello and they are the proud parents of two boys.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Breakfast Program

**Dreamers and Doers**



Mrs. Marie Rattigan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Tallahassee Branch NAACP  
Mistress of Ceremony

Musical Prelude

**Detroitlive**

Invocation

**Reverend Quincy Griffin**, Pastor  
Family Worship and Praise Center  
Tallahassee, Florida

Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

**Leon County Schools JROTC Joint Color Guard**  
Under Direction of GySgt A. L. Reaves

Negro National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing"  
*Audience Please Stand*

**Adrion Milton**

Welcome

**James Zhang**, Student School Board Member  
Leon County School Board

Acknowledgements

**Alexis Dumerjean**, President  
FAMU Chapter of NAACP

Greetings

**Mutaqee Akbar**, President  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

**Rosanne Wood**, Chair  
Leon County School Board

**Rocky Hanna**, Superintendent  
Leon County Schools

Musical Selection

**Detroitlive**

Introduction of the Speaker

**Mia Nicholson**, President  
FSU Chapter of NAACP

Guest Speaker

**Honorable Jessica J. Yeary**, Esq.  
Second Judicial Circuit

Recognition of Dr. Malinda Jackson James  
Dreamers & Doers Elementary Schools

**Anicia Robinson**, Director of Elementary Schools  
Leon County Schools

Recognition of Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers  
Dreamers & Doers Middle/High Schools and Special Sites

**LaRoderick McQueen**, Divisional Director  
Leon County Schools

Closing Remarks

**Rocky Hanna**, Superintendent  
Leon County Schools

**Mutaqee Akbar**, President  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP



# **Dr. Malinda Jackson James Dreamers and Doers \*Elementary Schools\***

## Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts

### ***Landon Bruce***

Landon Bruce is the epitome of what it means to be a Shining Star. She exemplifies the qualities of a strong leader inside and outside of the classroom. She is the first to raise her hand when a classmate needs assistance and she always displays patience and care when working in groups. London is a gifted artist and spends a lot of time creating detailed sketches and drawings. Much of her work is of fictional characters that bloom from her own creativity. London is also teaching herself Japanese and often incorporates this in her art. London has also expressed her desire to travel and experience different cultures from around the world. With her ability to express herself both visually and verbally, she easily connects with a diverse group of peers. London's positive attitude towards others is a beacon of light to students who struggle with making friends, fitting in, or making good choices in school.

### ***Romeo Blake***

Romeo Blake was homeschooled in first grade and joined the Apalachee Shining Stars in second grade. Since becoming a member, he has shown nothing but positivity and excellence. Romeo shows patience and understanding in every action and in every conversation. He conducts himself with extraordinary respect for his teachers, peers, and school. He shows responsibility, dedication, and integrity. Romeo is never afraid to ask questions, give answers, and provide help. Romeo does not get discouraged and will go above and beyond with his classwork. It is clear in Romeo's everyday actions that he highly values equality, faith, nonviolence, and education. Romeo's faith guides a lot of his actions and decisions. Outside of school, he is wholeheartedly involved with his church. His interests include playing the flute and he shows great excitement in pushing himself to master the instrument. While Romeo is a soft-spoken individual, he has a close-knit group of friends whom he values greatly. Because of his kindness, nonviolence, and hard work, Romeo continues to shine and excel in all that he does.

## Astoria Park Elementary School

### ***Zayden LaMoute***

Zayden LaMoute is an extreme pet lover that aspires to one day to become a zoologist that helps to save the lives of endangered species animals. Zayden believes that animals should be loved and protected whether they live in the wild, are endangered, or in captivity. He one day aspires to educate people about ways they can create a better world to live in by addressing the impact of humans on species and implementing better hunting laws. Mr. LaMoute always strives to do his best academically and often volunteers to help his peers inside and out of the classroom.

### ***Onesti Davis***

Onesti Davis' passion is education and success. She takes pride in her work and seizes upon every opportunity to learn something new. Onesti has maintained excellent grades and is always seeking to do better. She exemplifies leadership qualities through her work ethic and bubbly personality. In her spare time, she loves to read. The person Onesti most admires is her mother who offers her encouragement in everything that she does. Miss Davis' peers describe her as being friendly, hardworking, and a great role model!

## Bond Elementary School

### ***Khai Floyd***

Khai Floyd is a rare gem; a laid-back personality with a side of confidence. His intellect goes far beyond his years as he strives to achieve immense success in all subject areas. He has proven to his teachers that he can be a superb leader in and outside of the classroom. Khai facilitates small group lessons and class discussions throughout the week which motivates his peers to be better students. His good character, natural ability to lead and academic excellence has earned him a place in the Junior Beta Club. As a member of the Junior Beta Club, Khai has been able to explore a variety of community service opportunities that sparked his interest. He volunteers in classrooms assisting teachers with their daily responsibilities and tutoring primary students. Khai has a smile for everyone and strives to be a positive influence for all. Students and teachers alike look to him for academic excellence, deep insights, and unique perspectives. He is admired by his peers because of his academic honors, compassion for others, and leadership skills. Khai Floyd's social maturity and academic excellence is the standard.

### ***Bailey Harris***

Bailey Harris is more than an ideal student or dedicated scholar; she exemplifies positivity and has a clear sense of purpose. Her willingness to help others (teachers and peers) displays her natural abilities to lead. She exudes compassion and confidence while engaging in class discussions and presenting new ideas. Bailey is the standard of what it means to be an exemplary student and role model. As a big sister, you can often find her seeking out new adventures with her little brother or spending quality time with family as they travel the country. Her good character, sense of awareness, compassion for others, and academic excellence which she attributes to a "good upbringing" has afforded her the opportunity to participate in the Junior Beta Club. She enjoys being a positive influence on others while continuously challenging herself to be better. As she continues to draw inspiration from her family and life experiences, Bailey hopes to exceed all expectations set upon her. The joy and genuineness Bailey brings to others makes her an amazing friend to many and an inspiration to us all.

## Buck Lake Elementary School

### ***Anika Pasumarthy***

Anika's passion is education and success. She is very proud of her grades as she earned straight A's her first 9-wks in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students describe Anika as being friendly, compassionate, fun to be around, and an all-around great friend and classmate! She brings laughter to her classmates and teachers with her quick wit. Anika is very helpful in class and stands up for those who are treated unfairly. She is one of our best student role models. Anika devotes her time to several clubs here at Buck Lake. She is a part of chorus, orchestra, The Robotics Clubs (The Innovators) and also the Math Club. She loves to read and wants to be a voice actress/singer when she grows up. Anika shines in the classroom and has rightfully earned the title of an MLK Dreamer and Doer.

### ***Jonathan Sims***

Jonathan is the same great, thoughtful, and kind kid everywhere he goes. We can't think of another student that epitomizes what Dr. King stood for more than Jonathan. He is a leader among his peers and determined in his pursuits. Kind, humble and patient are a few words, out of many, that anyone who has met him would use to describe him. Jonathan has shown perseverance reaching goals set for him in and out of the classroom. With each challenge Jon defeats them head on. He keeps a positive attitude and focuses on what lies ahead even when things get tough. Not only staying positive for himself, but providing positivity and encouragement to those around him. We are proud to witness him never giving up and tackling any struggle he faces with pride. Jonathan always strives to achieve his best, and his teachers, peers, and coaches are extremely proud of him. No one deserves this more!

## Canopy Oaks Elementary School

### ***Amilyah Maxie***

Meet Amilyah Maxie, she is, a true exemplar of leadership in our school community. With a clear vision, unwavering determination, and a passion for positive change, Amilyah has emerged as a beacon of inspiration for both peers and educators. Her remarkable ability to communicate, collaborate, and motivate others is truly exceptional. Amilyah consistently demonstrates resilience, empathy, and a commitment to inclusivity. She is a shining example of how a



student's dedication, vision, and ethical values can ignite positive transformation. Amilyah embodies the very essence of leadership.

### ***Fredrick Larkin***

Fredrick Larkin has been chosen as our MLK student because of the wonderful qualities he portrays in and out of the classroom. Fredrick is a friend to all students who need one. He has shown kindness and patience. He is a hard worker in the classroom and continues to go above and beyond by asking challenging questions to further his learning. He is a wonderful example of leadership to other students in our grade level and to those around. He is always doing the correct thing and is always honest. Fredrick would be a wonderful student to be honored with this award.

## **Chaires Elementary School**

### ***Zipporah Mathis***

Zipporah Mathis is an amazing person and student. She is extremely dependable and is always there to lend a helping hand. She takes her academics very seriously and excels daily in the classroom. She is caring, kind, and has an extremely positive attitude. Her peers look up to her and she is a wonderful leader among her classmates. Her work ethic and sincere demeanor make her stand out from those around her. Some of Zipporah's hobbies include art, cooking and singing. She has also done gymnastics since the age of 4 and has danced since the age of 2. Zipporah loves the spotlight and is a graduate of the Barbizon School of Modeling & Acting. She is also a member of the safety patrol and an active member of Celebration Baptist Church. Zipporah aspires to be a dancer and a physician when she grows up. We are thankful that we have Zipporah in 5<sup>th</sup> grade with us this year and take pride in recognizing her as a participant of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers award.

### ***Josiah Williams***

It is with great pleasure and respect that we nominate Josiah L. Williams for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers award. He has such a respectful and thriving spirit. In school, he works persistently on his honor roll status. He eagerly enjoys helping and tutoring his peers with such enthusiasm. He aspires to be great in all that he does. He currently enjoys expressing himself through art, playing soccer, and observing nature! He aspires to be an Architectural Engineer. The future holds great things for this young spirited Dreamer and Doer!

## **J. Michael Conley Elementary School**

### ***Chloe Johnson***

Chloe Johnson is a kind and energetic young student. She is always eager to participate and is first to put her hand in the air to ask a question or offer a thoughtful response. During her time at Conley Elementary School, she has come to be known for her attention to detail and for her incredible work ethic. She sets high standards for herself and works tirelessly to achieve her goals in the classroom every single day. Because of her strong leadership skills, she has also earned the position of Lieutenant on the school's safety patrol. She is responsible for arriving at school at 7:45 am every day, raising and taking down the school's flag, monitoring other safety patrol members, and helping out as needed across campus. Even with all of these admirable qualities, it is Chloe's compassion towards others that shines through the most. Inside and outside of the classroom, she treats others with a kindness and respect that is a testament to her maturity and thoughtfulness.

### ***Semaj James***

Semaj James exemplifies several of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals and beliefs through his actions and character. Semaj's respect for his classmates and teachers highlights his commitment to the importance of respecting all individuals. Demonstrating respect is essential for fostering a harmonious and inclusive community, which aligns with Dr. King's vision of equality and unity. Semaj's kindness and willingness to assist others reflect compassion and helping others. Being supportive and compassionate toward one's peers is not only a commendable act but also aligns with Dr. King's vision of a society where individuals uplift one another. Dr. King himself faced numerous challenges and obstacles in his pursuit of civil rights and equality. Semaj's ability to show perseverance and dedication to his education, even on tough days, mirrors the determination that Dr. King displayed in the face of adversity. This determination is critical in working towards societal change and personal growth. Semaj, with his great attitude and positive behavior, serves as a role model within his school community. Dr. King believed in the

power of leading by example, and Semaj's conduct aligns with this principle.

## DeSoto Trail Elementary School

### ***Jahan Jariwala***

Jahan Jariwala has been a proud Trailblazer at DeSoto Trail Elementary since Kindergarten. He is a straight “A” student with perfect attendance so far this year. Jahan is dedicated to his studies and displays outstanding citizenship on campus. He is always willing to help his teachers and peers when they need a hand. Jahan is an amazing role model to our younger Trailblazers on campus. He always gives his best effort, shows good participation, and takes good care of school property. Jahan’s favorite subject is math and he hopes to someday become an artist or a pianist.

### ***Catherine Nguyen***

Catherine Nguyen is a Fifth-Grade student at DeSoto Trail Elementary. She works hard in her classes and stays on-task and focused. Her favorite subjects are ELA and Science. Her favorite part of ELA is the stories, particularly realistic fiction. Her favorite part of Science this year has been learning about protons, electrons, and electric charges. Catherine loves to create. She makes things with intricate details – paper flowers with many, many petals; buildings out of cardboard; hot glue sculptures; etc. She says she might like to be an Artist when she grows up. Always with a smile on her face, Catherine is quick to help when something needs to be done. She has a great attitude and is considerate and kind. She is a hard-worker, a friend to her classmates, and a joy to have in class. It is my privilege to nominate her for recognition as one of this year’s MLK Dreamers and Doers.

## Fort Braden K-8 School

### ***Louis Tyson***

Louis exemplifies a student who works hard, is kind to others and positively impacts each and every person he comes in contact with. He is committed to his educational path and responds to any criticism with compassion and motivation to always do better. Louis is proud of how well he has maintained good grades throughout school. He brings so much positivity to his classmates, pushing them always to do better. He loves all subjects, but especially reading, as he loves to read books. Louis aspires to be a successful, hardworking adult.

### ***Ariel Hill***

Ariel is passionate about education and her success. She has only ever had straight A’s and prides herself on her grades. Her favorite subject is Science; she wishes to attend MIT University for a master's degree in Astronomy and a PhD in Astronomic. Ariel hopes to work for NASA as an adult. She looks up to Sally Ride because she ‘never gave up’ and Neil Armstrong for his ‘tremendous bravery’. Ariel is a wonderful writer and natural public speaker; she won the Elementary 4H Tropicana Speech Contest (the topic was The Sun). Ariel is also amazingly athletic; she has played volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer, and flag football. Overall, Ariel is a wonderful role model for her peers.

## Gilchrist Elementary School

### ***Dominic Scott***

Dominic is a positive role model for his peers and shows leadership with his willingness to always help others. He is passionate about pursuing his dreams and a highly motivated student. He has a cheerful disposition and a positive mindset. Dominic is always showing a caring nature towards others. He is an all-star student who exhibits leadership qualities by helping other students, asking questions and coming prepared for class.

### ***Harshini Senthil Kumar***

Harshini is a bright, kind, and motivated 5<sup>th</sup> grader. She has high expectations for herself and is always a strong, positive example to her classmates. She can also be counted on to be responsible and helpful as she meets all requirements in her position as a school safety patrol and as a participant on the Mini Mu team. Additionally, her interpersonal skills with her peers and adults are impressive for someone her age. Harshini is a true leader, in and out of the classroom.

## Hartsfield Magnet School for International Studies

### ***Chelsea Bonds***

At just 11 years old, Chelsea Bonds, has already demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service, leadership, and academic excellence that embodies the spirit of Dr. King's legacy. As the secretary for Hartsfield's student council, Chelsea Bonds, has shown exceptional organizational and communication skills, and has been a positive and proactive leader in promoting positive change within our school community. She has also demonstrated her commitment to service through her involvement in the Girl Scouts, where she has dedicated countless hours to community service projects and learning the values of teamwork and leadership. In addition to her academic and leadership achievements, Chelsea Bonds is an accomplished member of the National Achievers Society, where she has consistently exceeded expectations. She is also a member of the Hartsfield Chorale, showcasing her talent and love for music and performance. What truly sets Chelsea apart is her diverse interests and ambitions. While she enjoys writing, singing, and playing basketball, she has expressed a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts as a singer or rapper. However, she is also interested in pursuing a chemical engineering, demonstrating her intellectual curiosity and determination to excel in multiple fields. Chelsea Bonds is a remarkable young person who is destined to make a lasting impact in whatever path she chooses to pursue.

### ***Rawlings Holmes***

Rawlings Holmes is a remarkable student who has shown exceptional leadership, dedication to community service, and a commitment to promoting inclusivity and understanding. As the president of the student council, Rawlings has exhibited exemplary leadership qualities, dedication to improving the school environment, and a willingness to listen to the needs of his peers. He has made great strides in promoting unity and cooperation within the student body, and consistently strives to ensure that every student's voice is heard. In addition to his leadership role, Rawlings, is an active member of the "Robo-Hawks" robotics club, where he has demonstrated his passion for STEM fields and has excelled in problem-solving and innovation. Rawlings Holmes enjoys reading, hunting, and playing baseball. He has a strong belief that it is not always about winning, but about fair play and sportsmanship, embodying Dr. King's message of equality and justice. His commitment to service, his dedication to academic excellence, and his passion for inclusivity and fair play make him an exceptional recipient for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamer and Doer award.

## Hawks Rise Elementary School

### ***Laila McClendon***

Laila is known around Hawks Rise Elementary for her kindness and positive attitude. New to school this year, Laila has made friends quickly and impressed her teachers with her outstanding character qualities. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, she is quick to uplift others and serves as a compassionate friend. When she sees peers left out during group work, she is quick to work alongside or invite them join her. Laila can often be found volunteering to help her peers and assisting her teachers with needs in the classroom. She is an outstanding role model both in and out of the classroom. Her positivity draws others to want to be around her and promotes a spirit of inclusion and equality. Laila is full of creativity and it shows in all of her studious endeavors. Overall, Laila is an outstanding student both academically and in her citizenship. She demonstrates many of the positive attributes of Dr. Martin Luther King. We are proud to recommend Laila for this prestigious recognition.

### ***Veer Patel***

Veer is known around Hawks Rise Elementary for his kindness and positive attitude. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Veer sets an example in the classroom and serves as a role model for others. He can often be found helping and encouraging his peers. He shows compassion to the ESE inclusion students across all subjects, volunteering to partner with them on projects and providing peer support whenever he sees a need. He is helpful, and his positive attitude promotes inclusion and equality. Additionally, he demonstrates commitment to academic excellence by participating in the Mini Mu math team. He has also served as a member of our school safety patrol, a role reserved for those who genuinely enjoy being of service to others and keeping our younger students safe. Overall, Veer is an outstanding student, both academically and in his citizenship. He demonstrates many of the positive attributes of Dr. Martin

Luther King. We are proud to recommend him for this prestigious award.

## Killearn Lakes Elementary School

### ***Sean Dominy***

Sean Dominy exemplifies what it means to be a humble yet driven student. He shows other peers how to act in class and surpass challenges regardless of the subject. I have seen Sean outside of the academic atmosphere in sports. Sean blew me away by his determination at bat during baseball and his energy with his teammates encouraging them on to victory when they were down. He embodies the definition of loving others in various settings and being a “Good Samaritan” with students who may be challenging to interact with, with actions that are full of integrity. He is kind and doesn’t need his voice to always be heard above the crowd and never needs the last word. His teachers, Mrs. Large and Mrs. Rhodes, are honored to have him in our class and want to support the rest of his year with his studies. We are honored to nominate him and want to show him that doing incredible work and studying hard can get you to places you’ve always dreamed of going.

### ***Ethan Perry***

Ethan Perry exemplifies leadership, compassion, and commitment through his actions, care, and efforts he gives to all those around him. Ethan is a student who strives for commitment to learning and being the best he can be, while his interactions with peers and teachers within his community showcase his leadership and compassion for others. He is a student who will bravely stand up for others and what he believes in, while motivating those around him to be kind and lead by example. His teachers and school faculty can depend on Ethan to encourage positive leadership and a determined attitude when faced with new challenges. His teachers, Mrs. Lugo and Mrs. Barrett, have been fortunate to witness on several occasions, him genuinely cheering on another classmate when they are feeling less confident about their abilities with a new fifth grade math skill, or standing up for another student when others are being less than kind to them. We are proud and honored to recommend Ethan Perry for this award.

## Oak Ridge Elementary School

### ***Allie Brooks***

Allie Brooks, a remarkable 5th grader at Oak Ridge Elementary School, shines as a beacon of resilience and achievement. Selected as a 2024 MLK Dreamer and Doer Award Recipient, Allie embodies the spirit of perseverance and dedication. Despite facing life's challenges, she has consistently maintained her commitment to academic excellence. As the WOAK Morning Show Anchor and a devoted member of the Safety Patrol and Girls on the Run, Allie actively contributes to the school community. Her impending induction into the National Elementary Honor Society is a testament to her outstanding character and scholastic achievements. Allie's positive influence extends beyond the classroom—she is admired by both teachers and peers, serving as an inspiration to all who know her. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "The time is always right to do what is right." Allie Brooks exemplifies this sentiment, consistently embodying the values of compassion, determination, and service. Her well-deserved recognition as a MLK Dreamer and Doer Award Recipient is a testament to her exceptional character and the positive impact she brings to Oak Ridge Elementary School.

### ***Cayden Williams***

Cayden Williams, a standout 5th grader at Oak Ridge Elementary School, is celebrated as the 2024 MLK Dreamer and Doer Award Recipient, a recognition befitting his outstanding character and achievements. Consistently excelling academically, Cayden is not only a high-performing student but also a compassionate soul always ready to extend a helping hand to his peers. As a model student, Cayden's positive influence resonates throughout the school community, earning him the honor of soon being inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society. His commitment to academic excellence and kindness toward others reflects the values that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. advocated for—a commitment to justice, equality, and service. In the words of Dr. King, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Cayden Williams lives by this principle, consistently embodying kindness and generosity. His well-deserved recognition as an MLK Dreamer and Doer Award Recipient not only acknowledges his academic prowess but also applauds his unwavering commitment to being a positive role model for all students at Oak Ridge Elementary School.

## Pineview Elementary School

### ***Janiyah Aguilar***

It gives me immense pleasure to select Janiyah Aguilar for this prestigious recognition. Janiyah's academic qualities have allowed her to thrive inside of the classroom and beyond. Janiyah is a hardworking and persistent scholar. Her admiration and determination towards her academics have consistently resulted in her achieving excellent grades. Janiyah's academics are as astonishing as her attitude towards others. Janiyah demonstrates what it means to be a stellar classmate and friend. Leadership roles in classroom assignments and groups comes naturally to Janiyah, as she possesses the quality of working well with everyone. "She's a great group partner and even better friend" stated by one of her fellow classmates when asked to describe Janiyah. It is for these reasons and so many more that at Pineview Elementary School we have proudly chosen Janiyah Aguilar as a recipient of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award.

### ***Daniyah Williams***

In recognizing Daniyah Williams, I want to highlight her exceptional qualities as my student. Daniyah embodies kindness, a diligent work ethic, and a strong dedication to academics. It's truly commendable to witness her take pride in achieving high grades while consistently exhibiting kindness towards her peers. This not only contributes to a positive and supportive classroom environment but also reflects her commitment to personal and academic growth. Daniyah actively participates in our school's drumming club, where students have the chance to embrace leadership roles and cultivate skills in leading musical performances. Daniyah's exemplary behavior and outstanding academic accomplishments have a profound and positive impact on our school community, making her a role model for her peers. It is for these reasons and so many more that at Pineview Elementary School we have proudly chosen Daniyah Williams as a recipient of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award.

## John G. Riley Elementary School

### ***Kenal Mullins***

Kenal Mullins has been an Honor Roll Student at John G. Riley Elementary school his entire school career. His favorite subject is math, and he enjoys playing Roblox and playing outside with his brother in his spare time. As Safety Patrol Captain and a member of John G. Riley's Student Government, Kenal represents leadership, non-violence, peace, citizenship, compassion, and has a true love for helping others. He is an outstanding student and a positive role model for his peers. This young man feeds off of positive interactions and praise. He says his inspiration to meet his highest potential is the pride he feels when he is congratulated for a job well done. Not only is Kenal an excellent student, he is also our 2023-2024 Mr. John G. Riley Emerald Pageant winner. This young man is going to grow up and make a true difference in society.

### ***D'Miah Gallons***

D'Miah Gallon has a passion for helping others see the best in themselves, especially when they are feeling down. She has maintained being an Honor Roll student since Kindergarten. Her leadership skills are exemplified in the classroom and around the campus of John G. Riley as a Safety Patrol. D'Miah's favorite subject is science, and she enjoys drawing, singing, dancing, and gaming. She is motivated and inspired by her family who encourage her to be her best self at all times.

## Roberts Elementary School

### ***Kaleb Toson***

Kaleb Toson is a student who possesses many of the characteristics embodied by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is a hard worker and always wants to do his best. He has self-confidence, yet he is humble and not boastful. The greatest qualities that Kaleb demonstrates are kindness and thoughtfulness that show when he helps others. He is the student who will pick up the piece of trash that everyone else walks by, and he will offer to hold the door for others. Kaleb is always finding ways to help others without expecting things in return. Kaleb Toson is a wonderful example of a Dreamer and Doer, just like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### ***Quincy Griffin, Jr.***

Quincy Griffin, Jr. is an athlete, a gentleman and a scholar. Well-rounded, he is hard-working and a great friend to peers. Quincy stands out because of his optimism and perseverance, even when things get challenging. He is also always helping and looking out for others in his class. When Quincy grows up, he wants to become a professional sports player. Quincy will be a tremendous role model in the sports world! He will succeed in whatever he decides to pursue. He is a natural leader and we look forward to the future world changer he is becoming

## **Ruediger Elementary School**

### ***Arvaneh Shokirov***

Arvaneh is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ruediger Elementary. She is a straight “A” student and a silent leader. Arvaneh loves to take on a challenge and is really good at listening to others and contributing to discussions. Arvaneh is the kind of person that looks for ways to help people any way possible and you would want her on your team or group. Arvaneh contributes to all situations without being the loudest or most outspoken person. She takes time to sit back, listen and process things before acting.

### ***Tyler Colman***

Tyler is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ruediger Elementary. Tyler is a very inquisitive young man. He really enjoys figuring out how things work. Tyler loves to take on a challenge and is really good at listening to others and contributing to discussions. Tyler is very thorough in his work and this strategy pays off with his grades. He has maintained all A’s or A/B Honor Roll each nine weeks and has scored the highest level on the Florida Standards Assessment. Tyler loves to read and is a member of the Ruediger Elementary Math Club. Tyler is very kind and is great at including others on the playground as well as in academic settings.

## **Sabal Palm Elementary School**

### ***Bailey Williams***

Bailey Williams is a dedicated leader with a passion for education, consistently performing at an exceptional level. His exemplary character and unwavering integrity set a positive standard for his peers, making him a role model within our school community. Bailey’s leadership skills are above reproach, and he demonstrates an incredible level of maturity and eagerness to learn and grow. A true team player, one of Bailey’s strengths lies in his ability to ask insightful questions that foster personal and collective development. Bailey aspires to be a singer, viewing himself as a lyrical genius with dreams of becoming a great musician. His willingness to step in and assist others in times of need reflects a remarkable commitment to teamwork and collaboration, making Bailey an inspiring presence in any setting and a well-rounded individual.

### ***Sarah Fish***

Sarah Fish has surpassed all expectations this year, emerging as a standout student at Sabal Palm Elementary. Known for her infectious smile and positive attitude, Sarah has become a beloved figure around school. Her dedication and hard work serve as an inspiration to her peers, who naturally gravitate towards her leadership. With an impressive blend of knowledge and enthusiasm, Sarah fearlessly tackles any challenge that comes her way. Beyond her academic achievements, Sarah is well-mannered and consistently radiates a pleasant personality, creating a positive, respectful, and loving environment. Fueled by a dream to become both a chef and a famous singer, Sarah embodies a commitment to being the best version of herself, leaving an indelible mark on those around her.

## **Sealey Elementary Math and Science Magnet School**

### ***Phillip Hayes***

Phillip has attended Sealey Elementary school since he was in Pre-K. As a “Sealey Superstar Lifer,” he is well known across the school for his positive attitude, leadership skills, kindness, helpfulness, and politeness. The positive attitude he exudes is evident in his personal relationships as well as his academic endeavors. Phillip is extremely involved and dedicated when it comes to his daily schoolwork, but he is also committed to his extracurricular responsibilities. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade alone, he was elected to Student Council to serve as historian by his classmates across

the school, and he was also chosen to serve on Safety Patrol, which he has diligently carried out on a daily basis. Teachers schoolwide rely on him to be a leader, and he has successfully risen to each challenge.

### ***Justin Sharide-Wilson***

Sealey is proud to nominate Justis Sharife-Wilson for the MLK Dreamers & Doers award. Justis shares and displays ideals and principles held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She continuously displays a positive attitude towards schoolwork and classmates, she carries herself with poise and confidence. Justis strives for success and is fully dedicated to her education. She is a natural born leader, not only assisting her peers, but also is also a reliable helper to teachers and staff. Outside of school, she is consistently involved with her church. She also has interests in jewelry-making that she would like to one day turn into a business.

## **Springwood Elementary School**

### ***Rynard Smith***

Rynard is a remarkable student whose unquenchable thirst for knowledge and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have earned him this nomination for the MLK Dreamers and Doers award. His journey as a young scholar is nothing short of inspiring, and his passion for learning knows no bounds. Rynard's journey through the educational system has been a testament to his unwavering dedication. He has consistently demonstrated exceptional work ethic, diligence, and an enthusiasm for learning that is truly infectious. Whether delving into the mysteries of mathematics, immersing himself in science, or embarking on literary adventures, Rynard has never shied away from academic challenges. Rynard is not only a bright young mind but also a role model. His willingness to help others highlights his compassion and leadership qualities. He embodies the spirit of teamwork, promoting a nurturing learning environment for everyone around him. Looking ahead, Rynard dreams of pursuing a career in the field of STEM, where he can make groundbreaking discoveries and contribute to the betterment of society. His unwavering commitment to knowledge and innovation bodes well for a future filled with success and achievement. Rynard is not just a Dreamer but he is also a Doer! He is an embodiment of academic excellence and an inspiration to all who know him!

### ***Ashlyn David***

Ashlyn has had an amazing journey coming from the Philipppians to America last year. She has had amazing gains in her academics and has grown to be very outgoing since she started here at Springwood. This year, she has blossomed so much and has received so much respect from her peers! She achieves all the goals she sets for herself which includes her AR goal, earning all A and B's in her subject areas and so much more. If she wants to achieve something, she will do her very best to do so. She will push through anything and everything and she will definitely do great things in life. Ashlyn has shown perseverance and dedication in everything she does and definitely represents the ideals of Dr. King!

## **Kate Sullivan Elementary School**

### ***Grant Domingos***

Grant Domingos strongly exemplifies the qualities of a Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamer and Doer. He comes to school every day with a positive attitude and a smile on his face, no matter what obstacles may stand in his way. He is a leader of kindness in and out of the classroom, and his presence positively influences his classmates. He exemplifies a "cool to be kind" personality, and has a positive impact on the environments he is in. Grant constantly challenges himself and has recently joined the KSE Mini Mu club. Although challenging, he continuously asks questions and preservers through the questions thrown his way. Grant aspires to be in the magnet program in Middle School and continues to show his leadership qualities as well as his passion for learning new things. He maintains excellent grades and is able to balance his academics as well as his extra-curricular activities. Grant's adventure is just beginning, his character will help him achieve his dreams and his presence will help make the world a better place.

### ***Ryan Davis***

Ryan is an excellent role model and outstanding 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Kate Sullivan Elementary. He shows strong character and sets and example for all the other students in class by always being on task and being helpful without being asked. Ryan is a kind, caring, and compassionate student. He is constantly helping other students, specifically those that need extra support in the classroom. He strives to excel in school and always volunteers or tries out for

school activities, like student council, and competitions, like the art competition. Ryan is highly talented and is constantly achieving highly in school. He shows enthusiasm for learning new topics every day. He is a great leader and has strong goals set for himself. Even though he is new to our school this year, he has made quite an impression on his peers, his teachers, and other members of our school. Ryan is a true representation of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's beliefs and ideals.

## W.T. Moore Elementary School

### ***Alyssa Sumlin***

Alyssa Sumlin is a dreamer, a doer, and encompasses the values that would have made Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proud. She is always ready to help anyone in need, whether in or out of classroom, and consistently tries her hardest in everything she does. Alyssa is truly a leader. She leads her fifth-grade class in her actions and her work ethic. Alyssa earned the privilege of being a Safety Patrol through her hard work and responsible behavior. She leads her group during center time every day and sets an example for how a responsible student should carry themselves. She treats everyone with respect and kindness and always speaks up for what is right. W. T. Moore is so proud to honor Alyssa for the amazing person that she is and even more for the impactful leader and amazing citizen she is continuing to become.

### ***Matthew Cannon***

Matthew Cannon is one student that we are certain Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be extremely proud of. In his daily walk, Matthew represents the ideals that Dr. King stood for and has maturity far beyond his years. He often displays empathy towards his peers and younger students by having compassion and lending a listening ear. He earned the position of Safety Patrol by exuding confidence in himself and in the respect he gives to staff and students alike. Matthew is the first to work with his classmates to help them solve problems during learning centers each day in class. He is always encouraging other students to take academic risks and to do their best. Matthew continues to be impressive by the way he always exudes a "can do" attitude and his willingness to learn. He is in a league all his own, and W. T. Moore is so proud to celebrate Matthew for his outstanding character and for the amazing young man he continues to become.

## Woodville K-8 School

### ***Iyanna Anthony***

Iyanna Anthony is an outstanding young woman who is a delight to teach because she always strives to do her best and uphold her values. She exemplifies characteristics of Dr. King in countless ways daily, never using her strengths to misuse or abuse others. She is a leader to her friends and as she models positive behavior with her penchant for following school rules and making sure her peers do the same. She also offers sound advice and heartfelt words of encouragement, all for the purpose of creating a calming and productive environment. In her soft-spoken manner, she finds a way to offer her talents to help others without making them feel inferior, never putting them down or degrading them. She has the power to influence others with her quiet strength. Additionally, Iyanna's voice is one of reason and her ability to be impartial makes it possible for friendships to be saved, salvaged and maintained. Lastly, when Iyanna is confronted with an injustice, she will not just follow along, but speak out even if she is a party of one doing what she thinks is right and appropriate. Her nonviolent and intelligent approach to issues and concerns makes her perfect for this honor.

### ***Neriah Williams***

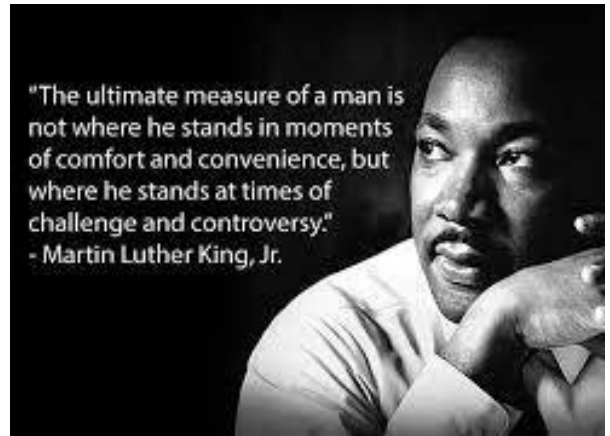
Neriah Williams is an exceptional student who is passionate about her education and thrives on academic success. Her quiet spirit brings joy and lights up every classroom that she enters. Neriah displays her very best with any task that is given to her. She is quick to offer a helping hand to others and is compassionate and kind when doing so. Her kindness has a positive impact on those around her and she is a role model to her peers by displaying leadership and citizenship in the classroom and throughout the school. Outside the classroom, Neriah enjoys studying, going to cultural events around town, eating out at restaurants, and going on vacations with her family. Her future goals include attending college with the aspiration of going to Harvard and becoming a veterinarian. Neriah is the definition of a MLK Dreamer and Doer in everything that she believes, and in everything she achieves.



# **Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers**

## **Dreamers and Doers**

### **\*Middle Schools\***



#### Elizabeth Cobb Middle School

##### ***Zion Petithomme***

Zion is an exemplary student who consistently demonstrates kindness, maturity, and leadership. She excels academically, earning consistent A's in all classes. Additionally, she goes above and beyond to assist struggling classmates, and fostering a supportive learning environment, which led to her being admitted to the Beta Club. As a teacher, I rely on Zion to help out shy and withdrawn kids. She also will speak out fearlessly when she witnesses an injustice. Zion embodies the spirit of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award. Her kind-hearted nature, leadership skills, and commitment to academic excellence make her a deserving candidate. I have no doubt she will continue to thrive and make a positive impact.

##### ***Amir Payton-Hussein***

Amir Payton-Hussein is one of the kindest middle school boys I have ever met. In class he is a quiet but calming presence while also confidently leading by example for those around him. Amir gets along with just about everyone and when I have needed him to fill in a spot to include a student who needed a peer he has done so as if accepting a top-secret mission of inclusion. Amir is a model student, shows immense respect to those worthy of respect, and simply shows unconditional kindness towards all he is around. He is truly deserving of the 2024 MLK Dreamers and Doers Award.

#### Deerlake Middle School

##### ***Joshua Hill***

Joshua is a hardworking individual, committed to helping others through acts of kindness. Joshua helps his grandfather at church, volunteers weekly at his sisters' school assisting at the school's store and assists at the school's annual Fall Festival. In addition to volunteering, he has attained the Honor Roll from elementary school to current. At Deerlake Middle School, Joshua participated in the Spelling Bee Contest and is a member of the Beta Club, Student Government Association (SGA), E-Sport Club and Pickleball Club. Joshua enjoys playing the sports of soccer and football and has been a member of the Deerlake Football team as well as a team player for private sports organizations. He loves science and the study of dinosaurs and aquatic animals. It is Joshua's dream to have a career as a Paleontologist and to continue in his mission of helping others through various volunteer activities and organizations. Teachers describe Joshua as a student who consistently does the right thing and helps others without being asked or seeking recognition.

##### ***Samewell Carter***

Samewell Carter is an eighth grader at Deerlake Middle School. He is the son of Ewell and Nicole Carter. While at Deerlake, Samewell has achieved All A Honor Roll each quarter of his middle school years. Additionally, he is an avid athlete, member of the FCA club, and member of the school theatre program. Samewell enjoys reading and writing music in his spare time and aspires to become a civil rights attorney. School faculty describe Samewell as the epitome of character and heart. He is authentically inclusive, kind, and appreciative of his community and all who are in it. He is a positive presence and influence among his peers without seeking recognition.

#### Fairview Middle School

##### ***Angelique McGriff***

Angelique has been an active participant in the Fairview IB-prep program throughout her middle school years. She has done an exemplary job at maintaining highly effective grades and takes on extra challenges with multiple high school credit classes. Her demeanor in the classroom and other areas of campus is one of a leader who is there to encourage and support the success and well-being of those around her. Angelique also contributes to our student population in a variety of other ways. She is currently Secretary of the Jr Beta club and uses her leadership skills to help organize events on campus. Angelique is also a glowing member of the cheerleading squad to help cheer on multiple sports on campus. Additionally, she was the host of last year's Black History Month Assembly at Fairview. At this event, she also sang a beautiful song to our student population. All in all, this student shows ample traits that are aligned with how Martin Luther King, Jr. lead by example to serve and support those in need.

### ***Matthew Maglioni***

I am recommending Mr. Matthew Maglioni for the Fairview Middle MLK Dreamers and Doers Award. Mathew Maglioni is a great example of a student whose passion is education and success. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" This quote from Martin Luther King is what Matthew is all about. Matthew is always helping others in the classroom and at home. Matthew has worked very hard in school, which is why he maintains the honor roll each year. He is inspired by his parents, who work very hard to make sure Matthew has all that he needs. Matthew is very friendly, compassionate, fun to be around, and an all-around great young man! Matthew wants to go to college and major in Aero-Space engineering. Mr. Matthew Maglioni is a handworker and an outstanding representation of Martin Luther King's famous quote. His character emulates the goal of a true scholar.

## **Fort Braden K-8 School**

### ***Lluvia Delcid-Hernandez***

Lluvia describes her passion in life as succeeding academically and making her family proud; she accomplishes this by always participating in class, being an engaged listener, and stopping what she is doing to help those around her in need. One of Lluvia's favorite subjects in school is Physical Education because it allows her to stay active while also collaborating with her fellow students. While maintaining high achievement levels and grades, Lluvia is also a member of the Fort Braden Soccer Team. The person Lluvia admires the most is WUSA Soccer Player Trinity Rodman. At no point does Lluvia let the balance of academics and extracurricular overwhelm her; instead, she tackles challenges and obstacles head-on and elevates not only herself, but also those around her. After she graduates high school, Lluvia's goal in life is to go to college and become a Crime Scene Investigator.

### ***Efrain Nunez-Posada***

Efrain summarizes what is important to him in four short words: family, friends, sports, and studies. Above all else, Efrain maintains positive relationships with those around him by being a friend, mentor, or listening ear—whatever is needed in the moment. Furthermore, Efrain works diligently as a student; he regularly checks on his grades, turns in his work, and follows up if he receives a grade that he deems less than acceptable. All while maintaining excellent grades, Efrain has trained to become a force to be reckoned with on the soccer field. In addition to his hard work, it is partly due to his abundance of positive relationships that Efrain balances academics and sports with confidence. Somebody Efrain looks up to is Cristiano Ronaldo; according to Efrain, this is because Ronaldo is not only a world-famous athlete but also because he works hard, perseveres, and carries himself with excellence. When he finishes school, Efrain's goal in life is to become a professional footballer.

## **Griffin Middle School**

### ***JaShelle Barber***

JaShelle Barber is the epitome of what a Martin Luther King Dreamer should be and portray. She is not only a leader amongst her peers, but an asset amongst the faculty and staff. She does not hesitate to jump in and get the job done. During her tenure at Griffin Middle School, she has served as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Representative, and Financial Secretary on Student Council. She has been apart of the Griffin Middle School Track Team and is currently on the Tigerette Dance Squad. She has successfully helped plan and execute over 20 events to recognize students positive behavior on campus, all while remaining an A/B Honor Roll Student. She is a participant and volunteer with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program and currently sits on the Advisory Board for the afterschool program. She is an amazing asset to the Griffin Middle School Tiger Family.

### ***RaShon Smith***

RaShon Smith exudes the teachings and beliefs of Martin Luther King, Jr. He has been a sprouting leader at Griffin Middle School since his 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. He started with assisting in the front office and with faculty and staff. He played both football and soccer and always looked out for the fairness and peace of his peers. He actively participated with several Black History activities during the 2022-2023 school year, including being an assistant writer and producer. He currently serves as the Vice President of the 2023-2024 GMS Student Council and has worked extremely hard to implement activities to recognize those students who always do the right thing, but are often missed. He has also played football and is currently on both the Soccer and newly inducted Baseball team. RaShon is a leader that students follow whole heartedly and he has an interest in the fairness and protection of all involved. It is an honor to nominate RaShon Smith as one of our Dreamers and Doers.

## **William J. Montford Middle School**

### ***Cierra Stephens***

I have enjoyed managing the girls' basketball team for the past three years. I have maintained good grades and I strive for excellence in everything I attempt to do. My favorite subject is History because it allows me to explore various topics surrounding America's founding and influences of various important people throughout history. Like, Dr. King, I enjoy helping others and showing kindness with a great attitude. I am a natural born leader and strive to be a positive role model for others. I help my community by staying involved and being a good citizen. My teachers appreciate my commitment to completing my work and caring about the outcome of my grades as I strive for excellence. My future plans are to graduate high school and attend a college of my choice. I want to continue working to help bring peace and hope to all mankind.

### ***Dedric Scott***

"No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." Dedric is an athletic person who enjoys weightlifting, track and field, and other sports. He is a musician who plays the saxophone which he enjoys sharing his music with others. He attends church and helps with the technology. Dedric is a leader who is kind and has compassion for other students. His myriad of interests will help him reach his future aspirations to one day become a chemical engineer. His hope is that he will attend Florida A & M University; he will begin this aspiration this summer as he will enroll in the summer program for "future engineers." He is also keeping his options open for other universities such as Florida State University or LSU in case his first choice doesn't work out. He has a great attitude and has made outstanding choices thus far in his academic and athletic endeavors.

## **R. Frank Nims Middle School**

### ***Shawn Dorr***

The Dreamers and Doers Award is meant to recognize students who embody Martin Luther King's sense of kindness, commitment, compassion, and citizenship. Shawn Dorr, of R. Frank Nims Middle School, is an excellent candidate for such an award. Shawn is an exceptional student within R. Frank Nims' Pre-Law Academy, of which he is now in his third and final year. He is a practicing attorney on campus, a title given to second- and third-year students of the Law Program who passed the school's rigorous BAR exam. Shawn's growth and maturity in as well as his sharp, sophisticated sense of humor and his curiosity of the world—makes him an excellent candidate for this recognition. Shawn wrote several articles our school newspaper, but the one that we will always remember was an idea Shawn came up with all on his own: he wanted to write an article about why R. Frank Nims--one of just a few Middle Schools in Tallahassee comprised of mostly black students—is frequently referred to in derogatory terms like "ghetto" and "hood". Shawn's short but eloquent article outlined how he feels that these labels are unjust and unfair to the hundreds of hard-working middle school students within the walls of R. Frank Nims, and how his school has achieved great things within the last few years. Shawn's insight and wisdom on this topic were wise beyond his years (similar to his sense of humor). Mr. Shawn Dorr is an excellent candidate for the MLK Dreamers and Doers recognition.

### ***Sierra Smith***

Sierra Smith is a dedicated student and valuable part of the R. Frank Nims Pre-Law Academy. Sierra, is a dedicated citizen at R. Frank Nims, both to her studies and to other students. Sierra Smith is currently a practicing attorney on the campus of R. Frank Nims Middle School—a designation given to second- and third-year students in the Pre-Law program who pass the school’s rigorous BAR exam. Watching Sierra mature from her 6<sup>th</sup> grade year as a quiet, timid new middle-schooler to her position now as a leader in the classroom and a leader on campus is phenomenal. Sierra has excelled in her schoolwork and has maintained a 3.75 GPA throughout her middle school career. Sierra Smith is a hard-working, compassionate student, with a tight friend-group and a love for her family. Sierra is the eldest of two younger sisters who are also in the Nims Middle School Pre-Law Program, and she has been a guiding light and shining example for them. The Dreamers and Doers Award is meant to reflect the values of Martin Luther King Jr., such as leadership, positive attitude, compassion, and being a positive role model. Sierra is most deserving of such recognition.

## Augusta Raa Middle School

### ***Kaleb Preatto***

Kaleb Preatto is a Raa Ram who exhibits the values exemplified by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Kaleb is viewed by his teachers as a friendly, funny kid with an awesome personality. He’s highly motivated and keeps himself busy. He has a lot on his plate, but enjoys everything he’s involved in. Kaleb goes above and beyond both in and out of the classroom. As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, he has maintained an average of 3.8 throughout his middle school years. Not only is Kaleb striving academically in the classroom, he also takes several online classes to include Spanish I and II, Digital Information and Technology, and English 1 Honors. Like Dr. King, his leadership skills are also impeccable. He currently serves as the treasurer for SGA, and is first chair in the trumpet section of symphonic band. He is one of our best student role models who exemplifies Dr. King’s values through his consistent adherence to excellence in and out of the classroom and inspiring those around him.

### ***Laysia Frazier-Harris***

Laysia Frazier-Harris is a well-rounded, respectful student, always having a great attitude. She’s a go getter who loves the sports world. Being the only girl and starting short stop on Raa’s first baseball team this year, has been a great accomplishment for her. She has led the volley ball and softball teams to several victories with her unwavering energy and dynamic serve this season. Laysia models leadership and commitment both on and off field. She has done an excellent job of balancing extracurricular activities as well as maintaining outstanding grades. She consistently sets the achievement bar high and is always willing to help classmates in need. Laysia has enjoyed participating in the Arts Magnet Program at Raa Middle School for the past 2 years-being an active participant in our awesome Steel Drums class. She is one of our best student role models who exemplifies Dr. King’s values through consistent excellence and inspiration.

## Swift Creek Middle School

### ***Layla Arango***

Layla makes kindness towards others look easy. Layla does not run around campus shouting about the need for equality for all, nor does she boast about her accomplishments—she doesn't need to. Her actions show her belief that everyone deserves kindness and equal treatment. Many philosophers throughout history have spoken about the virtues of silence and the strength that comes from the ability to know when to hold one's tongue. Pythagoras, for instance, stated that "It is better either to be silent or to say things of more value than silence. Sooner throw a pearl at hazard than an idle or useless word; and do not say a little in many words but a great deal in a few." Like this quote, Layla does not waste her words, but, with wisdom and maturity, her words and actions eloquently spread messages of positivity, peace, and compassion for her community.

### ***Israel Herring***

Izzy (Israel) always has a great attitude in class. He's also kind and demonstrates compassion towards others, like when he takes the time to help other students better understand complex concepts. Izzy doesn't wait until he is asked to help others—when he sees a need, he takes the initiative to help those students who may be struggling with certain concepts. Dressing up as President Obama was the perfect Halloween costume for Izzy because, as a positive role model, he demonstrates a strong sense of leadership and equality for all among his peers. Izzy has my vote for an MLK Dreamer and Doer. And, who knows—give it a few years, and we might all be wearing "Vote Izzy for

President" shirts.



## **\*High School\***

### Lawton Chiles High School

#### ***Yasmin Blyden***

Yasmin Blyden is a graduating senior at Lawton Chiles High School; she is the daughter of Tamara and Ensworth Blyden. Yasmin is a bright and well-rounded young person; she has excelled as a student and distinguished herself as an outstanding scholar and athlete. Yasmin's interest, involvement and leadership in student organizations reads like a recipe for success; she is or has been a vibrant member of the Chiles National Honor Society, Hang Tough Club, American Red Cross, Chiles Cancer Society and Sisterhood Club to name a few. In Yasmin's essay response for this award, she mentions one of Dr. King's timeless quotes, "The time is always right to do what is right", well, this is Yasmin's time and she appears to consistently do what is "right" as indicated by her academics, activities and athletic choices. In her essay, Yasmin states, "If I had a chance to ask Dr. King two questions, one would be how did he find the courage and vulnerability to protest and speak about the issues that were affecting minorities in the world". Yasmin has demonstrated those same courageous and vulnerable qualities posed in her question. You see, it takes courage and vulnerability to be an elite athlete, to excel academically and hold down positions of leadership as an employee and/or volunteer. At Chiles, Yasmin has endeavored to pursue the most rigorous Advanced Placement and Honors courses and has consistently completed these courses with distinction. This year, Yasmin is in a small cohort of students participating in the Externship Program, which allows students to have real-life, first hand, experience in a career interest of their choice. We at Chiles High School believe that this phenomenal student can achieve all that she sets her heart and mind to achieve. We are proud to present Miss Yasmin Blyden as our choice for the 2024 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dreamers and Doers Award.

#### ***Jose Leach***

Jose Leach is a graduating senior at Lawton Chiles High School; he is the son of Tamara and Richard Leach. Like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jose is quite a distinguishable young person by several accounts; he has the respect of his teachers and peers; a person of great moral character and vision. In answering the short answer question for this Award, Jose stated, "I have a dream that anybody facing adversity should focus on education and then support others facing adversity too." Like Dr. King, Jose is a scholar who has a passion and gift for working with those facing challenges. Jose went on to say that, "King's approach towards his adversity was strategic genius. Instead of physically fighting his adversaries, he studied and countered their oppositions intellectually". Jose is an awesome advocate for our Exceptional Student (ESE) population at Chiles High School; he has been a member of Timberwolves United since 2020. During his years at Chiles, Jose has received honors such as High Honor Roll, Pride of Pack and a nomination for the Dreamers and Doers Award. Jose is a student who is committed to his academic studies excelling in Honors and Advanced Placement courses; he is also a superior musician whose musicianship has earned him noteworthy honors. Jose is a force to be reckoned with; his commitment to service is demonstrated by his continued involvement with Boystown North Florida, Leon County Commission as an Intern, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Chiles. Jose Leach is a very self-aware young person; he is focused on his goals and making a difference

in the greater community locally and globally, just like Dr. King, Jose's dream must be realized! We are very proud to present Master Jose Leach as our choice for the 2024 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dreamers and Doers Award.

## Amos P. Godby High School

### ***Timothy Hunter***

Over the past two and a half years, I have had the pleasure of watching Timothy Hunter transform into the phenomenal young man that he is today. Despite the trauma he's had to endure, Tim's positive attitude and charisma makes it easy for him to connect with others. Timothy not only exemplifies poise and strength in the face of adversity, he has demonstrated a passion and desire for education and success. Timothy has managed to turn his nightmare into a beautiful story and chosen to help others and looks forward to becoming a Psychologist/Psychiatrist in the future. Tim started his academic journey in middle school by taking high school courses. Tim's drive and motivation for academic excellence hasn't decelerated; as he is a successful full time dual enrolled student at Tallahassee Community College. While Tim has a rigorous academic schedule, he is able to balance extra-curricular activities, volunteering, and work. With the promising combination of his great personality, dependability, dedication, and determination, and his belief that violence is not the answer, Godby High School is delighted to have Timothy Hunter represent us as our MLK Dreamer and Doer.

### ***Tiana Casseus***

Tiana has an amazingly positive attitude toward learning and life. Her relentless will to master all subjects is fueled by a perpetual, insatiable, high level of curiosity. Academically, she shines brightly. More importantly, she is a fantastic person. Her glowing smile, warm heart, and wonderful personality provide anyone who is fortunate enough to share a moment with her, a glimpse into her beautiful soul. Tiana's teachers shared that her best attributes are the compassion and warmth she shows others. She has a desire for helping people and can often be found tutoring other students in what little spare time she has left. She has excelled in the Welding Dual Enrollment Program with Lively and even though she is planning to attend a 4-year college program in the fall, she also plans to continue in the field of Welding. Tiana's essence is a real treat for the entire Godby community. Her light shines bright as she exemplifies the beliefs and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We are so proud of her and are excited to see the awe-inspiring things she will continue doing throughout her life's journey as Godby's Dreamer and Doer.

## Leon High School

### ***Camille Friall***

Camille Friall has been a committed school leader during her time at Leon High School. She is President of the Leon Key Club, Treasurer of the National English Honors Society, and a member of the Student Government Association. She is also a member of Rho Kappa, Gay Straight Alliance and Pierian National Honor Society. Camille is very active within these organizations and has established a strong presence within the school. Outside of Leon, Camille has danced with the Ballet Arts Conservatory of Tallahassee for many years. This commitment requires extensive rehearsal hours and performance obligations. She is also an Extern with the Florida State University Presidential Office. Camille is clearly active and very involved in our community! She already shows the signs of being a lifelong learner and engaged community member. Camille's maturity and excellent communication skills are some of what sets her apart from other high-achieving students. It is clear in meeting with Camille that she is genuinely curious and motivated. Her drive and intense focus are inspirational!

### ***Victoria McQueen***

I nominate Victoria McQueen for the MLK Dreamers and Doers award. I have known Victoria in my capacity as her school counselor at Leon High School. She is an outstanding student and young woman. Victoria exemplifies Dr. King's ideals through her commitment to service. She is a member of Interact Service Club, Pierian National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, English National Honor Society and Rho Kappa. She has been active in her school and community through her involvement in Student Government Association where she serves on a number of committees and is the current Student Body President for Leon High School. She is also active in Youth Citizens Advisory Council and Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership. Her overarching role in these areas is one of fostering communication and positivity. Victoria's post-secondary goals include the pursuit of a degree in Criminal Justice. When Victoria's name is mentioned among colleagues, the comments are always positive in nature and include

reliable, organized, problem-solver, efficient, dedicated and thoughtful.

## Lincoln High School

### ***Tristen Aikens***

A highly motivated student with an art for organizing and executing a plan for success, Tristen has long been passionate about education and its contributions to society. He has embraced the challenge of a rigorous curriculum showcasing a transcript with nearly a dozen honors and advanced placement courses as a mainstay on the Dean's list. Outside of classes, Tristen utilizes his heart and natural skills of service by managing a rigorous extra-curricular schedule. He continues to be in service to our youth through mentoring opportunities as well as book, backpack, and toy distributions. He works with foodbanks and food drives occurring throughout our Tallahassee community. Vice President for The Omega Lamplighters, Tristen epitomizes servant leadership and even received the Mighty Light Team Scholar Award. Honest, dependable, delightful, respectful, and hardworking are just a handful of praises given by faculty. These reflections surely suit his goal of using his entrepreneurial skills after his studies to positively impact his community. Fostering meaningful relationships with academic mentors and peers alike, the consensus is that Tristen embraces becoming a life-long learner with enthusiasm and concern for others.

### ***Nia Sampson***

Nia is hardworking, reliable, and has strong academic integrity. She has earned straight A's throughout her high school career while taking majority Honors/AP courses, and dual enrolling. Her problem-solving and organizational skills have rightfully landed her as number 16 in her cohort. She is listed as an AP Scholar with Distinction, National African American Recognition Program Scholar, and will receive an AP Capstone Diploma. Beyond these academic achievements, Nia is involved in clubs and sports teams at Lincoln. Over the past four years, Nia has been a member of both the indoor volleyball team and beach volleyball team. During this time, she has earned the U.S. Marine Corps/American Volleyball Coaches Association Academic Award with Honor Roll Distinction. Beyond athletics, Nia is an officer in our National Honor Society and Crochet Club. Outside of school, Nia remains an integral part of our community. She is a volunteer for North Florida's Hugh O'Brien Leadership Foundation Alumni Team, has participated in the Florida House of Representatives Page Program for three years, and Senate Page Program this year. Over the summer, she volunteered at the Gadsden Arts Center and Museum, and she continues her volunteer work at North Florida Wildlife Center. From her own words, Nia is motivated to attend a graduate program and eventually start her career as an Art Historian or Ecologist. Regardless of her specific path, she will continue supporting her passion for educational outreach in the arts and sciences.

## James S. Rickards High School

### ***Jayla Gordon***

Jayla Gordon is deeply passionate about education and achieving success. She takes great pride in maintaining a 4.0 GPA since the ninth grade; and is currently a member of the National Honors Society at James. S Rickards. Jayla's greatest source of admiration is her family, which provides unwavering support in all her endeavors. Inspired by her family, she strives for academic excellence, endeavors to be the best version of herself, and learns from her family's experiences to avoid repeating their mistakes. Guided by the quote "No person has the right to rain on your dreams" by Martin Luther King Jr., Jayla embodies resilience and determination. Known for her organizational skills, authenticity, ambition, and overall positive demeanor, students describe Jayla as a fantastic person to be around. She not only brings inspiration to her classmates but also extends kindness to her teachers. Additionally, Jayla dedicates her time to volunteering at James S. Rickards after school, where she finds joy in helping others.

### ***Tyson McClellan***

Greeting and humble salutations, I am Tyson McClellan, hailing from Quincy and a dual enrolled senior at James S. Rickards High School where I excel in the classroom holding a 3.9 weighted G.P.A. My loving parents have instilled values in me such as leadership, accountability, and most importantly love. I am grateful to have such dedicated parents who understand the importance of education and the sacrifice needed to ensure I reach my optimal potential. Upon graduating, I will be attending the Greatest and Top Public HBCU, THEE Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Florida's capital city where I WILL earn a doctorate in Physical Therapy. Emulating Dr. King's philosophy of service, I have embarked on a journey of giving back to the community. Volunteering is a cornerstone of my identity, as I uplift those in need through outreach initiatives, tutoring, and volunteering a local physical

therapy practice.

## SAIL High School

### *Chanel Thomas*

Chanel “Citrus” Thomas is a senior at SAIL High School and exemplifies many ideals and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Citrus is a very bold, joyful and good-humored student at SAIL. Through her compassion for all students and in being a positive role model, she was elected by her peers to serve as SAIL's Student Body Vice-President. She can make connections with nearly anyone she meets and has the conviction to quickly turn strangers into friendly acquaintances. She treats everyone with respect and openness, encouraging them to express who they are. Citrus' passion is expressive art through fashion and design. She prides herself in expression through her ornate and cohesive fashion and makeup that she envisions and then creates. This is how she connects with others and relates to those with diverse backgrounds all the while being her dignified and authentic self. It is without a doubt that Citrus will leave a legacy of positivity and care for many years to come to those at SAIL High School.

### *Michael Parise*

Michael Parise is a senior at SAIL High School and was selected as a Dreamer and Doer because he exemplifies the characteristics that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in. Michael is a kindhearted hard worker; he believes everyone deserves to be respected and strives to support those that need help or care. Because of this passion, he has decided to work in the field of healthcare so he can ensure that every patient or loved one who may be undergoing a difficult time in their life receives care that is not only beyond substantial, but also holistic, memorable, and favorable to the person's comfort. In fact, Michael has started his career in healthcare through the C.N.A. program at SAIL. He is in his second year and is looking forward to bringing his dream to fruition once he graduates this year. Michael is also surrounded by those who care for him very much with a close network of friends and loved ones. His number one goal has always been to make his parents proud, for they have gone above and beyond to support him throughout numerous, and sometimes difficult aspects of life. We are excited to see and hear about the many accomplishments of Michael, as he has a bright future ahead.



## **\*Special Schools & Sites\***

### Florida A&M University Developmental Research School

#### *Ashlyn Cooper*

Ashlyn Cooper has enjoyed her participation at FAMU DRS for the past five years. She has done an amazing job of maintaining outstanding grades in a rigorous program of study. She is slated to be in the first class of students who will graduate with her high school diploma and an AA degree simultaneously. She is always willing to help her fellow classmates, schoolmates, and teachers. Ashlyn desires to become a criminal defense attorney one day so she can help the less unfortunate. She also wants to own her own bakery and have her own clothing line. She admires Vice President



Kamala Harris for her involvement in community and the United States of America. She currently serves as the President of Junior Beta and the Vice President of Student Government Association at FAMU DRS (middle school). Despite her quiet nature she has a strong influence on others through her actions, integrity, and her ability to inspire and motivate.

### ***Alanah Cooper***

Alanah Cooper's passion is academics and the arts. She is most proud of her grades as she maintains being an honor student. She admires Dr. Lisa Cook on how she engages with her patients and their health. Alanah aspires to become a surgeon so she can help and assist with informing the black community about health issues and preventive health. She currently is a member of Precious Ivy. She has a positive attitude and is fully committed to the welfare of all mankind.

## **Florida State University School**

### ***Donovan Parrish***

Donovan Parrish has attended Florida State University Schools for the last two years. He has been a bright light, greeting each of his teachers with a smile and a hug as he enters their classroom. He is a positive role model to his peers and encourages them to advocate for themselves when they don't understand. He is never afraid to ask for a hand or lend one to anyone. Donovan strives to always do his best by putting in the hard work, even if he doesn't want to in order to reach his highest potential. Outside of school, Donovan enjoys drumming, basketball, and football. His future life goal is to be a musician and share his love of drumming with the world, following in his grandfather's footsteps.

### ***Ezekiel Wyman***

Zekey is the kind of kid who is going to change the world someday. Academically, he is a standout student. He excels in our Math Accelerated Program and was the only student who scored was able to score a Level 5 in both reading and accelerated math at the beginning of the year, meaning he scored at the highest level on a math test assessing him TWO full years ahead of any formal instruction he's had. He is motivated and excited to take on any challenge he's presented with. More than that though, he is exceptionally kind. Not kind because he was told to be or kind when he has the choice to be; Zekey goes out of his way to be kind. He is the student who will come sit with you because he noticed you were alone, or quietly do something to support you without even telling you he did it, or say something encouraging just because you seemed a little off today, or advocate for you when no one else will. He has empathy for people he's never met and struggles he's never even encountered. Even further, Zekey IS a dreamer and a doer. He is FULL of ideas powered by both his empathy and his intellect, and he is eager to take the necessary actions to see those ideas through.

### ***Tania McGhee***

Tania is a member of our Middle School Student Government. She was voted by her peers to be the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade President. In her role as President, she helps others with kindness and grace. She tackles every task with a great attitude and extreme pride. Tania is also involved with extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad and plays City league volleyball. She uses her spare time to speak to young girls in the community and encourage them to live healthy lives and to be kind always. Tania is a wonderful representative of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers award.

### ***Kenedi Lowe***

Kenedi Lowe is a graduating senior at FSUS, where she currently serves as the Student Body President and a member of the cheerleading team. Kenedi's student leadership began at FSUS as one of the original members of the FSUS Middle School SGA at its inception, and she has been active ever since. She is an active student who is involved with many student organizations such as the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Building Incredible Generations (B.I.G), National Honor Society (NHS), and National Spanish Honor Society. She is also a dynamic dancer with Dance Fusion Studios, where she also volunteers her time to teach other girls dance. In addition to being an honor roll scholar, she also has two businesses with her sister. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." This quote emphasizes doing something, no matter how you have to start and eventually get there. Kenedi is an example of someone who speaks out at injustice and fairness, while also doing what needs to be done, however, it can get done. Kenedi embodies the dreamer and doer spirit of MLK as she goes for her dreams early and makes moves that blaze a trail for others to follow.

## **Leon Virtual School**

### ***Bostyn Edgeron***

Bostyn's work ethic and dedication is inspiring. She strives for excellence in her academics, has a great attitude, and

doesn't give up. When something is challenging, she pushes through, giving it her best. Bostyn's determination, hard work and caring skills go beyond her academics; as it is evident in her volunteering at her former elementary school, tutoring other students and while playing city volleyball, which she put it on hold this year, to focus on her studies. One thing is certain, Bostyn will continue to move forward through her positive attitude and commitment, exemplifying the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King.

## Success Academy at Ghazvini Learning Center

### ***Shaun McDade***

Shaun McDade is a phenomenal student who demonstrates resiliency and leadership skills. He is respected by his peers, teachers, and administrators. From the moment he enrolled at our school, he has advocated for himself. He has earned the principal's Golden Trio status: all A's, perfect attendance, and citizenship. He won student of the month through Envision Credit Union and continuously shows great leadership amongst his peers. He continues to let his light shine and is an example of the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by being a positive role model and has a commitment of helping others. Exemplifying one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s quotes, "The time is always right to do what is right."

### ***Yazmine Strong***

Yazmine Strong is an exemplary student who is destined for success, and greatness. Yazmine has an infectious personality and radiates light and kindness whenever she walks into a room. Yazmine is an honor roll student and has dreams of becoming a family law attorney. She is the youngest of her two siblings and is inspired by her mother who she says is the backbone for her and her siblings. Yazmine possesses characteristics that mirror the ideologies of Dr. King. Yazmine values diversity and inclusion. Anytime someone is alone or new, Yazmine will be the first to try to include them and make them feel welcomed and safe. Yazmine is passionate about education and believes in its transformative power. She makes sure to spread her passion with her peers, always being the one to lend a helping hand to others when they may be struggling. Yazmine is a born leader. She inspires others to be the best as she encourages and motivates.

## Tallahassee School of Math and Science

### ***Malaysia Jackson***

Ms. Jackson is an aspiring Entrepreneur, and students. She has been an active participant in our learning community for years. The students have shown a tenacity for learning which has been displayed by her achieving honor roll many times throughout her academic career at Tallahassee School of Math and Science. Just as Martin Luther King jr. had a dream for a better tomorrow so does Ms. Jackson. As a supportive and active older sibling, she works hard to provide a stellar example for those around her. I have often seen her not only help her siblings with being accountable for their academic success but also her peers. Many times, during class Ms. Jackson has been known to encourage others by reminding her peers "you guys know this is going to help us right". That type of enthusiasm for seeing other successful has resonated with those around her. The maturity of the student coupled with the drive to learn make Ms. Jackson an exemplary recipient of the 2023 2024 Dreamers and Doers award.

### ***Aubrey del Monaco***

Ms. Del Monaco is a wonderful student who has demonstrated a dedication to promoting learning and a drive toward excellence. Del Monaco Like Martin Luther King Jr. has always been accountable and respectful and always the first person to offer assistance when needed. She enjoys helping other students and making those around her smile and feel important.

## School of Arts and Sciences at The Center

### ***Jusiah Barnes***

Jusiah has shown such commitment to being a young leader. In class, he consistently seeks to go beyond the expectations in his class work and classroom community. Jusiah truly values learning, and he will take whatever challenges his teachers present in order to deepen his own knowledge. He often helps his peers meet their goals too, taking time to help them or collaborate to create something even stronger. Class discussions are always better with his contributions. He actively listens to his peers and works to present other viewpoints, especially those who may not have an obvious or large platform to be heard. Jusiah also has a wonderful attitude, evident from the moment you meet him. He knows when it's time to be silly and playfully connect with his teachers and peers, but he understands when to shift to a more serious tone. This warmth brings joy to everyone around him, and we are all better for knowing him.

### ***Sophia Oberlin***

Sophia has exhibited a goal-oriented mindset and has achieved great success academically. In all academic endeavors, she chooses not only to work at her highest potential but to extend her learning through projects. She always demonstrates

diligence and perseverance in completing tasks. Sophia's achievements do not end with academics. She is always willing to help others, she shows great compassion and empathy, and is a kind and gentle soul that exudes love to all she comes into contact with.

## The School of Arts and Sciences on Thomasville

### ***Michael Arradondo***

Michael Arradondo is a beacon of light, warmth, peace, and joy to all who meet him. He is loved and respected by his peers and his teachers. His maturity is admirable and his confidence shines. Michael has a unique ability to solve problems – always seeking win-win solutions. He takes time to process the emotions of others, discovering solutions to conflicts in a peaceful and kind manner. He is always there to help a classmate or teacher and never expects anything in return. Michael loves learning. He is continually seeking new information and points of view. He values the differences in others and works well with classmates, seeking to combine the strengths of each member of the team. Michael is a natural leader. He leads by example and he leads with love, patience, and confidence. He stands up for those who need it. He is sure of who he is and what his goals are. He is always working to better himself. We are so grateful to work with him and look forward to the difference he will make in our world.

### ***Josiah Santiago***

Josiah Santiago is the embodiment of a “doer.” A strong presence among his peers, Josiah consistently leads by example by taking pride in everything he does. Students describe Josiah as a hard worker, an athlete, and a friendly face to all. His sharp determination in the classroom leads him to excelling in all things academic, from creative projects to success on tests alike. When he doesn't know the answer to a question in class, Josiah will follow his curiosity until he is satisfied with his understanding. Teachers can always count on Josiah's hand to be raised and his voice heard. Outside of the classroom, Josiah's impact on his school community is palpable. His disciplined approach towards athletics has led him to becoming a natural coach and role model for younger students, which he proudly wears as a badge of honor. In the future, Josiah dreams of attending law school and helping others by becoming a defense attorney.



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We are so proud of you, Bostyn!  
Congratulations on all of your accomplishments so far. The sky is the limit for you!!  
We love you so much.  
-Mom & Dad



Montford Middle School  
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MLK Dreamers and Doers

Dedrick Scott, Jr.



Cierra Stephens



# Congratulations to Tiana Casseus



*For receiving the '2024 MLK Dreamer and Doer Award'*

Participants of this award are known to show leadership, kindness, equality, compassion, and non-violence. Tiana N. Casseus has done an outstanding job showing these marvelous characteristics and more! Her hard work is clear to see, and it motivates others to do their best for themselves too! Enjoy and Congratulations, you deserve it!



Victoria McQueen



Camille Friall

## Leon High School Dreamer and Doer

# Phillip

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We are so proud of you! Your light continues to shine so bright for all to recognize. We know you will continue to achieve great things and we will be there to support you every step of the way.

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."  
- Albert Einstein

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Congratulations to the 2024 NAACP & Leon County Schools MLK Dreamers and Doers Awardees! Your commitment to embodying Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s qualities is commendable. As a local attorney, I'm inspired by your dedication to justice and equality, and I'm confident your impact will continue to be a beacon of hope for our community. May this honor propel you toward even greater achievements in the future. Your contributions have undoubtedly made a lasting impact, and I look forward to witnessing the continued positive change you bring. Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved honor. Dr. King's dream lives on through your actions.

Best Regards,


Daryl D. Parks, Esq.  
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*For Tallahassee City Commission Seat 1*



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Marlon Williams Clark (NAACP Youth Council Advisor)



# Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast 2024 "DREAMERS & DOERS" PROGRAM



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### MUSICAL GUESTS:

DETROITLIVE

CALL (850) 408-8303 (FOR BOOKINGS)

&

MR. ADRION MILTON

### EVENT STAFF:

Donald L. Tucker Civic Center Staff

Our hosts, hostesses, and volunteers!

"No person shall on the basis of sex, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status or genetic information be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity including those receiving federal financial assistance, except as provided by law." No person shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

## **BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER!**