



About the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) was created by Act 1216 of 1993. The AMLKC is an offspring of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission. It was established under former Governor Bill Clinton by executive order and then signed into legislation by former Governor Jim Guy Tucker. The Commission was created to promote the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1997, a formal mission statement, a stated purpose, goals and objectives, and the Commission Board were developed. Because of its limited resources, a consensus determined that the Commission would focus on youth-oriented projects first, and then expand. Violence and crime among youth was one of the critical concerns with the people of Arkansas. The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans. The purpose and goals of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission are to promote racial harmony, understanding, community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens, to promote principles of nonviolence, promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Develop, coordinate and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King's Holiday.

Mission

Promote racial harmony; understanding; community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens.

Promote principles of nonviolence.

Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King's Holiday.

Vision & Goals

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is guided by Dr. King's teachings and philosophy of love, tolerance, and nonviolence. The Commission strives for social improvement in Arkansas, helping communities and organizations achieve new levels of leadership and public service. The Commission works directly with youth and others, encouraging them to embrace alternatives to violence and discover their common humanity. Through activities that stress racial and cultural diversity, the Commission offers the youth of Arkansas a new understanding of the important roles they play in the communities, now and in the future. The Commission advocates creating social change through changing public policy by providing training and technical assistance to developing and established organizations with similar goals. Whether working with the Arkansas State Capitol or at small community centers across the state, the Commission strives to build alliances. The Commission brings people together to better focus on common goals and increase their collective strength.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission preparing for the upcoming King Week 2022

What's that sound? King Week is coming!! Check out Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Historian Tiffany Pettus on Fox 16 Good Day talking about the amazing events hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as we countdown to King Holiday 2022!!!!

Click on link to watch Tiffany's interview with Fox 16s Ashlei King!



Click on link to watch Tiffany's interview with Fox 16s Ashlei King!

<https://www.fox16.com/.../martin-luther-king-jr.../>



2022 KING WEEK KICKOFF

King Week 2022 got off to a great start at the home of civil rights icon Daisy Bates promoting community service and inclusion!

Many people joined the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as we honored community leaders and renovations of the historic home of Ms. Daisy Bates. Ms. Bates' home served as a meeting place for the "Little Rock Nine" and several Civil Rights icons frequented her home including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friend of Daisy Bates and historian, Mother Annie Abrams shared her reflections on the Bates legacy. Mother Abrams also encouraged youth and adults to do their civic duty and get to know their locally, state and nationally elected officers and vote in in all elections as these are the rights that our forefathers fought for.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission seeks to highlight individuals and organizations that are make a difference in the communities within Arkansas. Therefore, this list of awards was presented during the King Week Kickoff

Congratulations to Timothy Campbell who received the 2022 L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education, Acceptance, and Diversity) Award

Kris Pettus and the Pettus Helping Hand Foundation received the 2022 Outstanding Community Service Award

Inviting Arkansas Magazine received the 2022 Drum Major for Excellence in Print Media

The Daisy Bates home Foundation agreed to making appointments for private tours of the Daisy Bates Museum at later dates to interested individuals. *This event was free and open to the public and media.*



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presents

Experience KING WEEK

Kickoff and Awards Ceremony

Renovations and Tours of the Home

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022

10:00 AM

HOME OF DAISY GATSON BATES
1207 West 28th Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

Free and Open to the public. Program and renovations will be held outside.
 For more information, contact DuShun Scarbrough, 888-290-KING



Daisy Bates was a mentor to the "Little Rock Nine," Former State President of the Arkansas NAACP



King Week 2022 Day 2 -The 2022 MLK Our Beloved Community Virtual Pen Pals Initiative

The 2022 MLK Our Beloved Community Virtual Pen Pals Initiative is designed to promote culture, diversity, and cross-cultural connections amongst participants from Batesville, Little Rock, And Harrison. The Commission matched youth and adult participants of diverse backgrounds from Little Rock, Batesville, and Harrison to communicate their ideas and life experiences during the initiative. Participants committed to meet virtually for four weeks to build awareness and collaboration and promote cross cultural experiences. After the four-week period, all participants came together to discuss project outcomes in a virtual conference, "Crucial Community Conversations" that premiered on all of the Commission's social media outlets on Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 11:00 AM.



AMLKC 2022 Executive Summary Part I

During the conversation, the group discussed things that they found that they have in common with their partner. Some of those things included life during the pandemic, their upbringing was very similar, music, and extra-curricular activities. They agreed that they all seek peace in every situation, they would all like to meet face to face and have a meal. In addition, the messages they agreed to share is that “we have to give change a chance,” “Differences don’t make us different,” and “We are all the same, just different shades in color.”

King Week 2022 Day 3 - The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission make a “Call to the Community for Nonviolence” Statewide Initiative

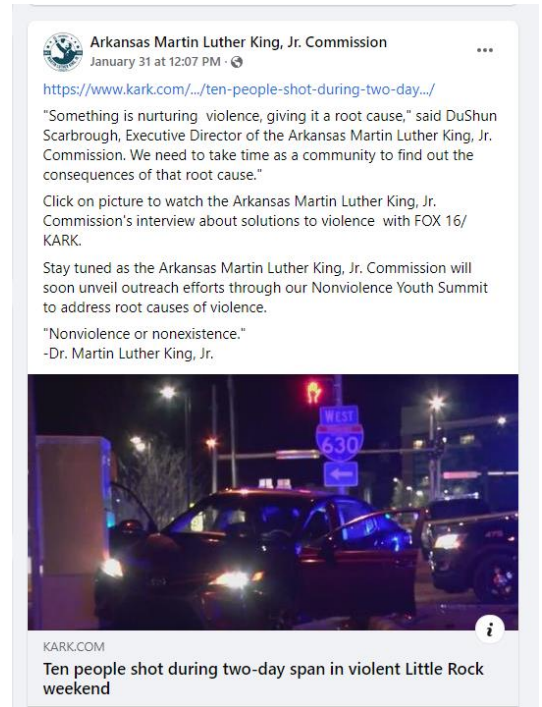
In partnership with FOX 16 and KARK News the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announced the Nonviolence Statewide Initiative to encourage youth across the state to engage in positive leadership roles within their communities at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in the heart of West Ninth Street.

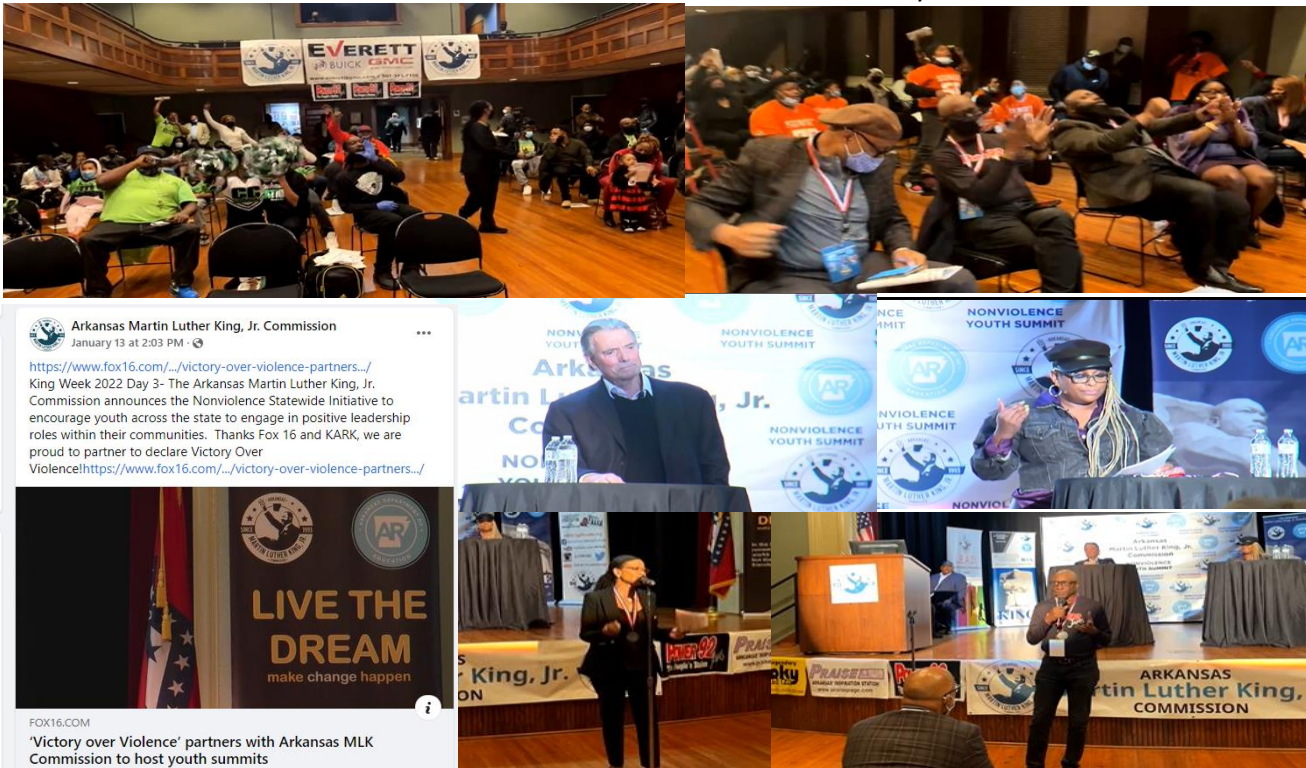
This event was held on January 12, 2022, at 6:00 PM free and open to the public and media.

About two hundred shared spaces in the grand ball room distanced apart, including youth of sports organizations came out to hear our plans to address violence throughout the state! This Initiative will encourage youth across the state to engage in positive leadership roles within their communities. Also in attendance were members of the MLK Commissions Board of Commissioners, leaders of the Arkansas Department of Education, City Director Doris Wright, several media outlets including the HEAT Magazine, Today’s Communique,

Among the speakers that mad a plea to the community were Broadway Joe with Power 92 Jams Radio Show, News Anchor Donna Terrell with Fox 16, Secretary Johnny Key with the Arkansas Department of Education, Yo Yo the legendary Hip Hop artist spoke to listening mothers, award winning actor Eric “Victor Newman” Brearden spoke to the community as a whole, but also encouraged youth to work hard, be more than what is expected of them and never give up.

Follow these links to see more of the story <https://www.fox16.com/.../victory-over-violence-partners.../>
[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arkansasonline.com%2Fnews%2F2022%2Fjan%2F13%2Fmlk-youth-summit-zeroes-in-on-efforts-to-combat%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2RP0MR9_Moe6jsmepcvDj5PtHU9BcC2BJpKRkfU7VXrKpAF-pjbR9E60A&h=AT1GSYiKkMFe-Z2uerw-JUGhFHkux7b_YPFYDK6M-NqPrTb8UWyWIZ8qh-tiEawvLtSCgakDehY5uhEU1zoyDTj11cZonirfe06K3NvMH81TRhaWQ0iRMok7vzpJus4uEA&_tn_=-UK-R&c\[0\]=AT17MO436blJwaw9DBwhiHnqUV-TvuU0kGg48rGtGsqColTuLDtR_DKPMxqSbW7q0OWmKmf0sbBhyaRBiBUQ5yimCi5Kof9_iJD04mIrexRGcK1VauSjyc3hU6dICPFuptt2V23312HatIISUWQ3eZ16D7pyAkCNca7toJt9q-gf9N](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arkansasonline.com%2Fnews%2F2022%2Fjan%2F13%2Fmlk-youth-summit-zeroes-in-on-efforts-to-combat%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2RP0MR9_Moe6jsmepcvDj5PtHU9BcC2BJpKRkfU7VXrKpAF-pjbR9E60A&h=AT1GSYiKkMFe-Z2uerw-JUGhFHkux7b_YPFYDK6M-NqPrTb8UWyWIZ8qh-tiEawvLtSCgakDehY5uhEU1zoyDTj11cZonirfe06K3NvMH81TRhaWQ0iRMok7vzpJus4uEA&_tn_=-UK-R&c[0]=AT17MO436blJwaw9DBwhiHnqUV-TvuU0kGg48rGtGsqColTuLDtR_DKPMxqSbW7q0OWmKmf0sbBhyaRBiBUQ5yimCi5Kof9_iJD04mIrexRGcK1VauSjyc3hU6dICPFuptt2V23312HatIISUWQ3eZ16D7pyAkCNca7toJt9q-gf9N)





King Week 2022 Day- 4 Nonviolence Youth Summit, Batesville, Arkansas

In partnership with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission proudly presented the **2022 “Nonviolence Youth Summit: We Are All in This Together”** at 9:00 AM promoting economic development, nonviolence, and education with the City of Batesville, Batesville High School, Lyons College and University of Arkansas Community College Batesville.

Individuals traveled from as far as Little Rock, Pocahontas and Harrison, Arkansas traveled to be a part of this event that took place at 9:00 AM on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at the Batesville High School, 1 Pioneer Drive, Batesville, Arkansas. The event is free and open to the public. The summit featured BHS students leading the community in a Pledge of Nonviolence, Lyons College Interim President Melissa Taverner provided remarks along with Mayor Rick Elumbaugh.

County Judge Robert Griffin, provided remarks reminding us of some of Dr. King’s words in his last speech called for the community to stand up for those being mistreated, take them by the hand and say, “They are with me.” Attendees around the gymnasium stood with Judge Griffin hand in hand to demonstrate their willingness to build a better and beloved community.

He then proclaimed Tuesday, January 18th as a National Day of

Racial Healing in the County of Independence and signed the proclamation presenting it with the City Mayor, to Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough.

AMLKC 2022 Executive Summary Part I



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission worked with local leadership to plan the summit. Executive Director Dushun Scarbrough said the Nonviolence Youth Summits were developed to promote youth engagement and community involvement.

“The Nonviolence Youth Summits build on the noble tenants of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by promoting his esteemed ‘Six Principles of Nonviolence,’” Scarbrough said, “and by hosting events that connect the younger generation with his legacy.”

“It is important to us as a state agency to form partnerships throughout the state to ensure that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message of peace, nonviolence, diversity and inclusiveness are shared abroad and resonate with this generation,” Scarbrough said.

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge provided inspiring words to the youth to be proud of where they come from and not to let being from a small town keep them from their dreams. To be proud to say that they are from the great City of Batesville.

The artist, Yolanda “YoYo” Whitaker was an exciting surprise guest while Actor Eric Braeden served as the keynote speaker. Braeden is best known for his roles as Victor Newman on the soap opera *The Young and the Restless*.

A reception was provided by the BHS Staff and cupcakes by UACCB for individuals to meet, greet, and take photos with Mr. Braeden.



2022 MLK Holiday City Wide Essay Contest

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission encouraged and challenged the youth of Batesville to demonstrate what they can do to keep Dr. King’s dream alive and relevant today during the 2022 MLK Holiday City Wide Essay Contest.

Batesville School Districts (public, private, in-person, or virtual) are asked to host an essay contest by completing the items listed below:

- Distribute the information to each qualifying school within your district.

AMLKC 2022 Executive Summary Part I

- Form a team to receive, review, and score each qualifying essay. Use the enclosed rubric to score all entries received by Wednesday, November 8, 2021.
- Submit the top five (5) middle school (grades 6-8) and the top five (5) high school (grades 9-12) entries to the Arkansas MLK Commission at Diana.Tippen@ade.arkansas.gov no later than Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 3:00 pm for winners to be determined.

Schools are asked to host a contest and complete the items listed below.

- Distribute the information to each student within your category.
- Form a team to receive, review, and score each qualifying essay. Use the enclosed rubric to score all entries received by Wednesday, November 8, 2021.
- Submit ten (10) middle school (grades 6-8) or ten (10) high school (grades 9-12) entries to the school district no later than Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 3:00 pm.
- The district will use the enclosed rubric to score and select a winner to be included in the 2022 MLK Holiday City Wide Essay Contest.
- Notify the winners and their parents when you receive their names.

The winners of the MLK Holiday City Wide Essay Contest winners were announce and were celebrated for their hard work and dedication. The top ten winners are listed below.

Kaleb Young
Lucas Drummond
Wade Falwell
Sara Johnson
Erin Seymore
Clara Nikkel
Cherish McDougal
Keely Cantrell
Addison Kreutzer
Sibohn Campbell



King Week 2022 Day 5 2022 MLK Birthday Bash, Harrison, Arkansas

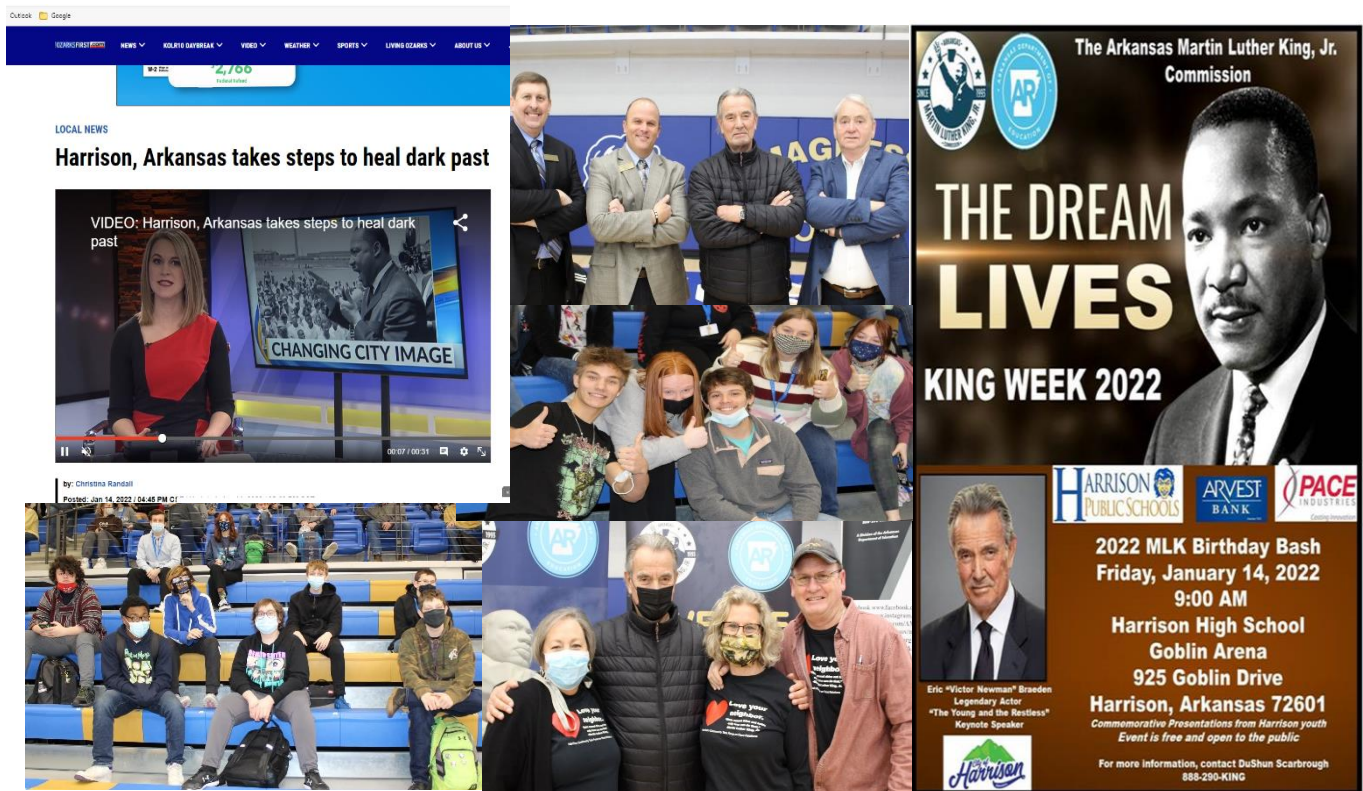
Friday, January 14, 2022, 9:00 AM, Harrison, Arkansas. 2022 MLK Birthday Bash at Harrison High School, Goblin Arena, 925 Goblin Dr, Harrison, Arkansas 72601, 9:00 AM. The MLK Birthday Bash is one of several educational programs hosted by Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) during King Week (January 10-17) to teach youth about the life and legacy of the late Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *This event was free and open to the public and media.*

HARRISON, Ark. — It's been marked as one of the most racist cities in the United States. However, the city of Harrison, Arkansas, has been working with the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission for a decade to banish its dark past for good.

The group held a "2022 MLK Birthday Bash" on Friday at the Harrison High School Goblin Arena to celebrate King's life.

"We chose to have an MLK Birthday Bash right here in Harrison, Arkansas," said DuShun Scarbrough, executive director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. "This is our 10th year anniversary working with Harrison in order to help change the stigma that hovers over the city."

https://www.ozarksfirst.com/local-news/local-news-local-news/harrison-arkansas-takes-steps-to-heal-dark-past/?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_source=facebook.com&fbclid=IwAR1xYQXAZ1aNPaAqtw9JK-nVtHOdc5KM5RxTIBbO_FD5yHPKdQdvYXav6pE



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also observed the tenth anniversary of its partnership with the City of Harrison and the Harrison Taskforce on Race Relations.

There were artistic presentations from Harrison students and the keynote speaker will be Eric “Victor Newman” Braeden, legendary actor and star of the long-running hit daytime series, “The Young and the Restless.”

Other speakers on the platform included Principal Jay Parker, Honorable Jerry Jackson, Mayor of Harrison

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ky3.com%2F2022%2F01%2F18%2Fharrison-ark-hosts-mlk-commission%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0xzn_XZQLTM7vNJLIunU98JGk7PUGJnX5mAFSvHGENIN7gbF51hNVdS-o&h=AT0c45Eu9O5i11ODrFpCu3lsmmwJUzjGFnOvUdr5LbTXq5QvZlYdXnsJDvxHs407HC6Ifu6G-Jt10aAxZ43k0YSGnPLs6svdiZiymAYFPKxegWJe6g4y64ehZLDX1128A&_tn=%2CmH-R&c\[0\]=AT3Bff_8zelAhRNtoXR9PsZf5WiCwLgSaUwYoFvZB8aAz3u_h2xiDeUhES0dEuDoslyTeHNIY4ymL1OLm117Ybhg6WSUvFIuge15mA-R3WcfJgaZe3GLspZDs9-CmoZLxqcPkHa1o8ce_lQgmzB63qxCXFAGvPYbhTfdesQF2M5X1qr](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ky3.com%2F2022%2F01%2F18%2Fharrison-ark-hosts-mlk-commission%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0xzn_XZQLTM7vNJLIunU98JGk7PUGJnX5mAFSvHGENIN7gbF51hNVdS-o&h=AT0c45Eu9O5i11ODrFpCu3lsmmwJUzjGFnOvUdr5LbTXq5QvZlYdXnsJDvxHs407HC6Ifu6G-Jt10aAxZ43k0YSGnPLs6svdiZiymAYFPKxegWJe6g4y64ehZLDX1128A&_tn=%2CmH-R&c[0]=AT3Bff_8zelAhRNtoXR9PsZf5WiCwLgSaUwYoFvZB8aAz3u_h2xiDeUhES0dEuDoslyTeHNIY4ymL1OLm117Ybhg6WSUvFIuge15mA-R3WcfJgaZe3GLspZDs9-CmoZLxqcPkHa1o8ce_lQgmzB63qxCXFAGvPYbhTfdesQF2M5X1qr)



King Week 2022 Presentation of Awards

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Presents Community Service Awards

To individuals and organizations that serve the communities of Arkansas directly and indirectly. We proudly salute these them for their efforts to making a difference in our beloved community.



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

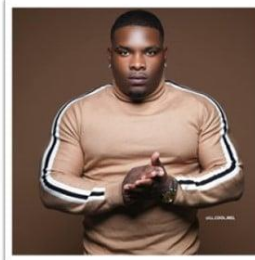
2022 King Holiday Award Recipients



Timothy Campbell
L.E.A.D. Award

Inviting
arkansas

Excellence in
Print Media



Kris Pettus
Pettus Helping Hand Foundation
Community Service Award



Dr. Jan Ziegler
Humanitarian Award

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.”



Pat Johnson
Our Beloved Community Award



Carlos Chicas
Community Service Award



Marie Kershaw
L.E.A.D. Award



Peyton Bump
Susie Everett
Youth Community Service Award



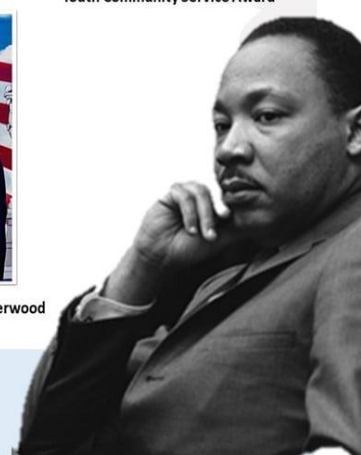
U.S. Congressman French Hill
Drum Major for Education



Dr. Rajesh Nayak
Community Service Award



Lieutenant Colonel J. Floydridge Underwood
Salute to Greatness Award



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
888-290-KING
DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director



2022 MLK Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state; and to promote the principles of nonviolence and equality among all citizens. Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history, and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosts the nation’s largest day of service in the nation.

<https://ucaecho.net/web/nations-largest-mlk-day-celebration-visits-little-rock/>.

The Commission has also been lauded as the most active Commission in the nation by Dr. Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and CEO of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presented the 2022 Annual MLK Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. The prestigious event includes reflections on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from members of the interfaith, business, and public service community. The 2022 Annual MLK Interfaith Prayer Breakfast will take place on King Holiday, Monday, January 17, 2022, 8:00 AM-9:00 AM, Arkansas Governor’s Mansion, 1800 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72206.

Doors opened to invited guests at 7:45 AM

Musical selections were provided by the Little Rock Parkview Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Band Director Anthony Wyrick.

The program included the presentation of colors by the Arkansas State Police Honor Guard, the National Anthem was performed by Amanda Hood-Armstrong, the Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge led the Pledge of Allegiance, and commemorative remarks by Honorable Asa Hutchinson who said “King is missed and America could use his counsel today,” US Senator French Hill provided commemorative remarks and presented the 2022 MLK Salute to Greatness Award to Lieutenant Colonel Floydridge Underwood. A special presentation from Honorable Alma Adams, who represents North Carolina’s 12th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives, who works hand in hand with Senator French Hill to support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in Arkansas.





The Annual Interfaith Prayer Litany

More than fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King wrote a landmark letter that would be forever embedded in American history and literature. “The Letters from the Birmingham Jail” is a written response to a public statement of concern and caution issued by eight white religious leaders of the South. In the letter, Dr. King defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. Responding to being referred to as an “outsider,” he wrote, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The letter was widely published and became an important text for the American Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s. The letter responded to several criticisms made by the “A Call for Unity” clergymen, who agreed that social injustices existed but argued that the battle against racial segregation should be fought solely in the courts, not the streets. As a minister, Dr. King responded to these criticisms on religious grounds. As an activist challenging an entrenched social system, he argued on legal, political, and historical grounds. As an African American, he spoke of the country’s oppression of black people, including himself. As an orator, he used many persuasive techniques to reach the hearts and minds of his audience. Written on tissue paper in his jail cell, *The Letters from the Birmingham Jail* still stands as one of the classic documents of the civil-rights movement.

The litany was presented by AMLKC Commissioner Patrick Gulley, Sharon Brooks, US Senator Tom Cotton and Helmi Iahiani.

The Arkansas MLK Commission's 2022 MLK Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast at the Governor's Mansion was featured in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee says at MLK interfaith breakfast that racism is a symptom of sin

by Rachel Herzog | Today at 7:16 a.m.



Follow



Recommended For You

Missing New Hampshire minor found during Jacksonville traffic stop; 4 arrested on various charges

Maumelle woman's body found in Arkansas River

The keynote speaker was former Governor Mike Huckabee. *The Annual MLK Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is strictly by invitation only.*

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said America's divisions are spiritual, not political, in his keynote speech. "We don't have a skin problem. We've got a sin problem," said Huckabee, a Baptist minister and political commentator. "The root sin is pride and racism to the degree which it really exists is the symptom, not the disease. It is not the cause, it is the effect."

King Week 2022 Finale: A DAY OF IMPACT

Day of Impact King Holiday Food Giveaway, Health Services, and More, Largest Day of Service In The Nation

The Commission has also been lauded as the most active Commission in the nation by Dr. Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and CEO of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off”, which is hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, was recognized by the media as the largest observance in the nation honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Retrieved from <http://www.thv11.com/story/news/local/benton-bryant/2015/01/19/largest-day-of-service-event-nationwide/22015879>) and as one of the “Best cities for volunteering this MLK Day/Top Destination to Serve Over the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend” according to Trip Network, Inc. (d/b/a CheapTickets).

The 2022: “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off” community outreach project, has been redefined as “A DAY OF IMPACT” to feed the at-risk and other worthwhile service activities such as health screenings, job counseling, distribution of hygiene kits, free grooming services and so much more.

This year the MLK Commission placed focus on service projects to again bring as many resources to the community as possible at one location and the Little Rock Catholic High School located at 6300 Father Tribou St, Little Rock, AR 72205 was that place.



All services began at 11:00 AM and continues until all 10,000 lbs of food had been distributed just after 1:00 PM. Thanks to partnerships with the Arkansas Food Bank, Tyson Foods, Power 92, KOKY, Praise 102.1, Everett Motors GMC, the Little Rock Catholic High School, the 2022 DAY OF IMPACT served hundreds of families throughout Central Arkansas.

Free Services provided that day included:

- Drive Thru Food give-away
- Free Bus Rides courtesy of Rock Region Metro
- Free Phones
- Tyson Foods provided job opportunities
- Healthy Snacks for Youth
- Free Meals
- Job Counseling with the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
- Health sanitizing Kits
- Preventative Health Screenings
- Free COVID Vaccination Clinic
- Public Health Education
- Behavior Health & Substance Abuse

LOCAL NEWS

Organization honoring MLK Jr. helping bridge cultural differences in Little Rock community

The commission brought the community food, health services, free phones, and the department of work force services.



Organization honoring MLK Jr. helping bridge cultural differences in Little Rock community

The commission brought the community food, health services, free phones, and the department of work force services.

Author: Jade Jackson (KTHV)

Published: 6:40 PM CST January 17, 2022

Updated: 9:07 AM CST January 18, 2022

Facebook Twitter

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission held their annual King Holiday Day of Impact at Catholic High School for Boys. They brought the community food, health services, free phones, and the department of work force services.

"In order to provide mobile apps for job and employment. So, we're doing all we can to promote the legacy of Dr. King by way of giving back," said Dushun Scarbrough with the commission.

Students from the school helped pass out food items for community members driving through for pick-up.

Jed Straessle is the student body president for Catholic High and said community service goes hand in hand with the school's principles for learning.

Collaborating with the King Commission is humbling and empowering.

"It's a mostly white school. It's not very diverse. So we kind of are almost getting out of our comfort zone a little bit and helping people that maybe we don't usually see everyday or encounter everyday in our lives," said Straessle.

He's hoping these cultural differences can be bridged together to really make a change even beyond MLK Day.

"In the future, we can start to work closer together and really bring our communities together for something more. I mean, that's what Dr. King said, is it not?" said Straessle.

It's a reminder of what those before us stood for in order for us to be able to work together continuously today.

 **Free Health Screenings for Arkansans**

Early detection is early prevention. Commemorating Black History Month, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, proudly present Free Health Screenings in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Minority Health Commission.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission provided hundreds of FREE health screenings and information to residents of the Gorman & Company’s Jesse Powell Towers Community Room from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Free screenings were also provided by the Commission to attendees during the Annual Black History Month program from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center on and Thursday, February 17.

Commemorating Black History Month, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presents



#workingtodayforahealthiertomorrow

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

* Temperature Checks * Blood Pressure * Health Education * Pulse Rate * Oxygen * Height and Body Mass Index
* Heart Rate * Must Practice Social Distance * Masks Required

February 10, 2022
1:00 PM-3:00 PM
Jesse Powell Tower Community Room
1010 Wolfe Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

February 17, 2022
5:00 PM-7:00 PM
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
501 West Ninth Street Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Black History Month Community Outreach Program



For more information, call 888-290-KING

 **2022 Annual Black History Month Celebration: A Living Witness To History**

POWER 92.1 JAMS
koky
102.1 fm
PRAISE 102.5 FM



Celebrate African-American History

FREE EVENT FREE SOUL FOOD



Special Guest "Living Witness to History"
February 17, 2022
6:00 PM
Mosaic Templars
Twitter: @CaseMusic
Instagram: @Iam_Case1

"Living Witness to History"
Sarah Collins Rudolph
February 17, 2022
6:00 pm
Mosaic Templars

"Living Witness to History"
Lou Gossett, Jr.
February 17, 2022
6:00 pm
Mosaic Templars



Connect with us: Facebook: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Twitter: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Instagram: @AMLKC and @Arkansas_ED YouTube: AMLKC and www.ARKingDream.org

For more information contact DuShun Scarbrough 888-290-KING

<https://youtu.be/wwlMVTRqXiM>

FREE EVENT FREE SOUL FOOD

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, proudly presented the 2022 Black History: “Living Witness to History” celebrating historical figures and events in honor of

African American History month. The event was free and open to the public, and took place on Thursday, February 17, 2022, Mosaic Templars Cultural Ballroom, 501 West Ninth, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, 6:00 PM.

The program highlights included presentations from:

- **Mini Home Buyers Workshop:** Walter Washington, Jr., Realtor at Keller Williams Realty Little Rock, provided information about being a first-time homeowner, the importance of being in charge of your own credit and other information on ways to obtain and maintain a home.
- A special history presentation by **Fredrick Douglas**, portrayed by Ravened Ricky Latimore
- **Sarah Collins Rudolph**, “The Fifth Girl,” survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama that took the lives of her sister Addie Mae Collins, and three other girls talked about her experience and strongly encouraged youth to stop killing each other.
- **Lou Gossett, Jr., Oscar-award winning actor**, gave reflections of being one of the longest standing African American actors in the entertainment industries. He encouraged the elders in the community to talk to and teach the younger generations the importance of service and history.
- Rhythm and Blues sensation, **CASE** made a special appearance and **SLIM** from the Rhythm & Blues recording group 112 as they took the crowd back through the 1990’s and early 2000’s years of their music.
- Awards were presented to
 - Jason McGee for his dedication as a Community Advocate
 - Coach Oliver Elder received a standing ovation when he was presented the 2022 MLK Salute to Greatness Award for his dedication to serving youth and families for decades.
 - Coach Ed Johnson and the Sunset Tigers Football Organization received the 2022 MLK Lifetime Achievement Award for their commitment to mentoring youth ages 5 and above with a standing ovation as the crowd was led into the theme chant for the organization, “We Are the Tigers.”
- Mr. Gossett and Mrs. Rudolph were presented an honorary black belt by the Anderson’s Taekwondo

As a means to help alleviate violence, the Commission announced its MLK Mentor Madness Initiative and invited mentors of youth programs and organizations to bring their mentees attend to highlight the positive things going on in organizations that take the time to mentor youth and involve them in positive activities. Over 100 youth helped to fill the ballroom and were excited to be a part of this educational experience.

McCory’s Catering and Special Events catered a Soul Food Thursday that featured fried Chicken, fried fish, spaghetti, cabbage, macaroni & Cheese, Yams, ox tails over peas rice and assorted cakes.

Sunflower Garden’s Educational Outreach provided food and beverage to youth attendees.

 **Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission's delegation of 40 to represent the state of Arkansas at the 2022 Bridge Crossing Jubilee and the Dream Keepers Civil Rights Tour.**

https://www.fox16.com/news/local-news/arkansas-delegation-taking-part-in-selma-bridge-crossing-jubilee/?fbclid=IwAR3qEo9BS24MZwq-kIOtEW0OkFNO2KAJ5UAmq1t_7tiuwB9YeEymtsEqbA

Forty (40) delegates from all four congressional districts traveled to visit Selma once again and walk in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The delegation includes students from historically black colleges and universities specifically Shorter College, members from Little Rock School District, and Mayor Jerry Jackson from the City of Harrison, Arkansas.

The Dream Keeper Civil Rights Tour has made stops at the National Civil Rights Museum, as well as the site of 1963 Birmingham bombing.

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/.../arkansans-make.../>

Arkansans make journey to Selma by Eplunus Colvin | March 8, 2022

AMLKC 2022 Executive Summary Part I

On March 7, 1965, a determined group of foot soldiers gathered at Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, Ala., and marched into history. On March 6, 2022, approximately 40 delegates from the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, marched those same steps at the annual event in Selma to commemorate "Bloody Sunday," which occurred when a group of about 525 Black demonstrators gathered at Brown Chapel to demand the right to vote.

Delegates from Pine Bluff, Harrison, Little Rock and Jonesboro took a journey through a history that for the most part, he said, is "not taught in schools but relevant to the changes of the past, present and future."

From the likes of Harrison Mayor Jerry Jackson, who said he wants to change the racist image of his community, to Shorter College students of Little Rock who were inspired to become civil and social activists in their community, to the young people and young at heart from Pine Bluff who were brought to tears to learn of the atrocities that their ancestors faced, the 57th Selma Jubilee Crossing experience is one they all said they will "never forget."

"It makes me very upset that someone put an end to what he was trying to do for the community and for us and for everybody," said 12-year-old Andrew Gayle of Batesville. His friend, 10-year-old Malakai Darden, Harrison, was speechless. When Scarbrough asked him what he was feeling, all Malakai could do was sigh.

<https://fb.watch/cn7Xx47LgU/>

<https://youtu.be/45TZZ40hFwI>



Nonviolence Youth Summit: Anti Bullying Assembly

<https://www.kark.com/victory-over-violence/arkansas-mlk-commission-brings-message-of-nonviolence-youth-empowerment-to-fordyce-high-school/>

Arkansas MLK Commission brings message of nonviolence, youth empowerment to Fordyce High School

FORDYCE, Ark. – The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is bringing a message of nonviolence and empowerment to students in Fordyce.

The group is holding a Nonviolence Youth Summit Assembly Thursday at Fordyce High School starting at 1:30 p.m. The event will spotlight the importance of conflict resolution and empower youth to report incidents of bullying and violence to the authorities.

Actor and entrepreneur Percy "Romeo" Miller will be a special guest speaker at the event, and he will be joined by North Little Rock Police Department Officer Tommy Norman. FOX 16 News anchor Kevin Kelly will also share his Step Up, Stop Bullying campaign with the students.

The event is part of a new effort by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, along with the Victory Over Violence campaign from KARK and FOX 16, to tackle issues of youth violence in the state.

This presentation comes on the heels of unrest at the school after two students were suspended after a video emerged showing a fight between the two which many other students said was instigated by continued bullying by one of the students.

A live stream of the event from Fordyce will be available to view in the video player at the top of this page.



THE PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL
Committed to local news

Saturday, March 19, 2022 140th year, No. 310, 4 pages | pbcommercial.com | @pbcommercial | facebook.com/pinebluffcommercial

PBSD's superintendent responds to complaints

By I.C. MURRELL
PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL

Editor's note: On Wednesday, members of the Pine Bluff School District's Education Committee met with a representative of the Arkansas Department of Education to air their frustration over a perceived lack of communication with Superintendent Barbara Warren about the district's future, campus realignment and financial issues, among other topics. The following is the first of a two-part series on Warren's reaction to the complaints.

Employees have criticized Pine Bluff School District Superintendent Barbara Warren over lack of communication on consideration of campus realignment, a four-day week and back pay of transportation department workers, among other issues.

Faced with criticism internally and from the city's highest office over a perceived lack of communication, Warren said she understands such complaints as the district heads into spring break. She addressed those issues Thursday, a day after PBSD employees who are members of the Arkansas Education Association held a meeting with a field representative from the union at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

Warren did not attend the meeting and said she isn't invited, adding the didn't know

See PBSD, PB4

Students explore culinary careers

SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

Dollarway High School introduced students to the culinary arts at Dollarway and other career choices in a program at Southeast Arkansas College earlier in March.

CULINARY ARTS

The Culinary Arts Career Exploration Camp was sponsored by Maria Barnes, college and career coach, and Freddie Harris, counselor, on March 4 in the Dollarway High School family and consumer science classroom, according to a news release.

Hosts were Bethel Byrd, family and consumer science teacher, and Tylesha Cross, personal finance and IAC jobs for Arkansas Graduate teacher.

Dollarway students welcomed Chris Willis, chief executive officer of Little West Ninth "Spirit of Entrepreneurship" and manager and operator of Small Bites Cafe on the SEARC campus. Brandon Turner and Kestandra James were part of the team that assisted students with instructions and cooking.

"Small Bites has great food that is also available for the Pine Bluff community and general public," according to the release.

Students were engaged

See CULINARY, PB2

Teen cheered at anti-bullying event

By EPLINUS OOLVIN
PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL

FORDYCE — In a gymnasium full of middle and high school students in Fordyce, the marquee chant of the name "Daniel Warner" was projected through the crowd of students, administrators, teachers and parents. Many would have thought they were at a pep rally as cheerleaders cheered, the Fordyce High School Band played and the Redbug mascot got the audience pumped up.

In a way it was a celebration but not in a way many would expect.

Less than a month ago, a video of Warner went viral on social media. While trying to get dressed after a practice in the locker room, the 14-year-old student encountered verbal and physical abuse from a teammate while the rest of the team members stood around and recorded the incident on their cellphones. In the video, obtained by the Pine Bluff Commercial, one can hear a student talk about Warner's mother, at which time another student replies, "His mom is dead."

Undeterred, the aggressive student then pushes and shoves Warner, who repeatedly asks the student to "back up. I'm not in the mood for this."

The bullying continues verbally and physically as Warner tries to defend himself and block the swings while his teammates watch. The video ends abruptly when Warner passes out on the floor.

That video sparked a Non-violence Youth Summit and anti-bullying movement by DuShun Scarborough, executive director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, with its first stop in Fordyce.

Scarborough and North Little Rock Community Outreach Officer, Bonny Norman, Kewin Kelly of Fox 16 and Step Up,

Fordyce student Daniel Warner (second from left) was celebrated as a hero for his nonviolent reaction to a bullying incident. (Pine Bluff Commercial/Eplinus Oolvin)

See BULLYING, PB2

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2022/mar/19/teen-cheered-at-anti-bullying-event/>

Today's front page of the Pine Bluff Commercial inside of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette!

We need more heroes in the world like Daniel 🙌

The article can be read on [arkansasonline.com/pb/news](https://www.arkansasonline.com/pb/news) as well as video snippets from the event.


When a 14-year-old Fordyce student was verbally and physically bullied by a teammate to the point of passing out in the locker room while his other teammates filmed and posted the video to social media, that sparked a statewide anti-bullying movement by DuShun Scarborough Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Executive Director who used that incident as a teachable moment.

The community rallied behind this young man at an assembly yesterday, where inspirational community and state leaders honored this young man.

Below is a snippet of the conversation on bullying with actor, rapper & producer Romeo Miller (formerly Lil Romeo), who was the keynote speaker at the assembly.

The Commission plans to take this anti-bullying initiative to Lavaca, Arkansas, where a bullying incident happened on the school bus.

The full story and video content will be published in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette tomorrow and online at [arkansasonline.com](https://www.arkansasonline.com).

 **2022 Nonviolence Youth Summit Part I**

Nonviolence event draws students to Little Rock event

by [Eplunus Colvin](#) /

(Arkansas Democrat Gazette & Pine Bluff Commercial)

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2022/apr/13/nonviolence-event-draws-students/>

It has been reported that Arkansas is the fourth highest in violent crime and the eighth-highest in property crime in the country. Safewise.com reported in March that Arkansas’ violent crime increased by 16% year over year. With the recent homicides in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and other acts of violence throughout the state, The Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, hosted a youth summit that highlighted solutions to the recent violence in the state and across the country.

“Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities,” said DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director.

The students took part in workshops and breakout sessions that promoted alternatives to violence and leading positive lifestyles. Hip hop icon and media mogul Percy “Master P” Miller, 51, and his celebrity son Romeo Miller, 32, were the keynote speakers for the summit. Actor and model Marion “Pooch” Hall, 45, also came to share his past experiences of overcoming violence.



“Master P rose from the depths of poverty and heartbreak, even losing family members to senseless violence, to become one of the wealthiest and most successful entrepreneurs of all time,” said Scarbrough. “He is very branded. He has owned a basketball team, clothing line, shoe line, cereal, potato chips, he is a business mogul, and he has reimagined the ‘No Limit’ brand across several platforms.”

Scarbrough said Percy and Romeo Miller were relatable to many Arkansans and could bring inspiration and hope using their platform along with the brand of ‘No Limit’ to help change the lives of young people. Percy Miller, who grew up amid poverty and crime, told the Pine Bluff Commercial he got tired of watching young people around him die. “My life

wasn't perfect," he said. "I was trying to figure it out." Percy Miller said it wasn't until he had his son Romeo Miller that he wanted to change his life.

Romeo Miller said his dad taught him the tools for success — accountability, faith and having a vision. "We are living examples of anything being possible if you believe, put education first and put God first," he said.

Hall, who said he grew up in a violent town in Massachusetts, said it was important for him to use his platform to be an influencer of positivity.

"There's not a lot of people who make it out from violent situations," said Hall, who noted that most of his classmates got involved in gangs and were killed. "It's important for me to spread some type of awareness and positive influence to help our youth because being a father, our kids are the future. What we instill in our kids now, good values, good principles, positivity, love ... that can dictate how our future can go."

Isaac Cline, a high school freshman who attended the summit, said he learned that even if you come from nothing you can still believe and work hard for better things in life.

High school junior Jadavien Banks said he learned that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. He said listening to Master P talk about his life made him want to choose the right way.

"You can end up in jail," he said. "You got to have a great mindset and not hang around a lot of 'yes men' because they will always tell you yes, even when it's wrong."

Cline, Banks and high school students A.J. Higgins, a sophomore, and Tymir Coppins, a senior, were selected by the Arkansas MLK Jr. Commission to provide bodyguard detail for the celebrities.

"This was something new for me," said Coppins, who added that the experience taught him responsibility, trust and loyalty.

"I probably would have never had this type of experience if it wasn't for the commission," Higgins said.

Scarborough said the commission used the youth summit as an opportunity to raise awareness and provide engaging opportunities for youths to learn about financial literacy, conflict resolution and King's principles of nonviolence targeting 17- and 18-year-old students.

It wasn't just the students who received valuable life lessons; parents were also in attendance as the Millers spoke about integrity, respect, the importance of education and accountability.

"Stop making excuses. If you want to do drugs and you want to go commit crimes, that's on you. It's another route and another way to be successful," said Percy Miller, who told the parents to stop being their child's friend and be the parent. "Hustling, stealing and killing is not going to last. It's temporary. It's quick. Now you're back trying to do it again until you get caught and you're in prison."

Percy Miller said if you do get a second chance in life, "make the best out of it."

"You don't have to be a perfect person, but you got to always try to do what's right," added Romeo Miller. "We all go through something, but we all got a shining light. Keep going. If you're going through a hard time, keep going."

High school students Tymir Coppins, Jadavien Banks, A.J. Higgins and Issac Cline provide bodyguard detail for hip hop mogul Percy "Master P" Miller and his celebrity son Romeo Miller.

Links to other news coverage:

AMLKC 2022 Executive Summary Part I

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2022/apr/13/nonviolence-event-draws-students/>

<https://4state.news/arkansas-mlk-commission-holds-nonviolence-youth-summit-in-little-rock/>

<https://www.thv11.com/article/news/education/students-arkansas-mlk-commission-nonviolence-youth-summit/91-cf514b01-40e6-4d32-9220-a1908693a938>

Over 3,000 Arkansas kids ages five and up gathered at the Arkansas State Convention Center to learn how to make a difference in their communities.

“A lot of the time these kids are being raised by social media,” Hall said. “I’m a dad of four. It’s important that we come together to make sure we’re giving those principles of respect, manners, class, and love.”

Scarborough added that violence comes from all walks of life, and that it’s not a black or white issue, but they want to help people change how they think before potentially making a violent decision.

<https://www.kasu.org/2022-03-31/arkansas-dr-martin-luther-king-junior-commission-to-hold-nonviolence-youth-summit-in-lr-monday>

Youth Breakout Sessions included:

Financial Literacy by US Bank

Healthy Living by Arkansas Minority Health

No More Bullies by Anderson’s Taekwondo

Your Social Media Presence by Broadway Joe and Idris Turner with Power 92 Jams

Six Principles of Nonviolence by Nate Williams

Respond-I-bility by Edmond Davis

“Step Up, Speak Out” Panel Discussion with Pastor Ricky Hicks, Pastor Randy Jumper, and Pastor Joyce Campbell

This event was free and open to the public.



A New Racial Taskforce is Announced in Fordyce, Arkansas

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission proudly presents the appointment of the Fordyce Anti-Bullying Task Force during today’s City Council Meeting in Fordyce.

DuShun Scarborough, Executive Director, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

Honorable Mayor John MacNichol

Alianzo Williams, Senior Class President at Fordyce High School

Honorable Sonia Eubanks Barker, State Representative District 7

Pastor Nicole McGhee

Chase McCullom, Fordyce High School Principal (not pictured)

Captain Lavioris Adams, Dallas County Sheriff Department (not pictured)

