

2026 • 13TH ANNUAL

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION

Friday, January 23
7:30 am

Cash Scholarships
Awards for MVC and
local High School students

Speech & Spoken Word
MVC Students

Essay Response
High School Students

BLUEPRINTS FOR CHANGE

LIVING THE LEGACY OF DR. KING

**MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE**

VISIT [MVC.EDU/MLK](https://mvc.edu/mlk)

LEARN MORE AND ENTER

Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center
14075 Frederick St., Moreno Valley, CA 92553



Riverside Community College District is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to all District programs and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the program/event organizer, Shantine Alex at (951) 571-6159 by January 12. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP

MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE

ELIGIBILITY

Enrolled Moreno Valley College students

RESPONSE FORMAT

Choose one of two ways to respond meaningfully to the prompt:

- A 5 - 7 minute speech
- A spoken word piece (max 7 minutes)

HOW TO SUBMIT

Complete the [scholarship application form](#). Upload a copy of your typed response. A link to a recorded performance (hosted on YouTube) must also be provided. Citations, if necessary, must be noted in the body of the work. Finalists may be invited to an in-person presentation of their work.

SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance requires attendance to the MLK Scholarship Breakfast event.

Speech Levels: \$1,000; \$500; \$250

Spoken Word Level: \$500

DEADLINE

November 31 by 11:59 pm

MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.mvc.edu/mlk.

In 1967, the United States was at a crossroads. The Civil Rights Movement had achieved major legislative victories, yet deep racial and economic inequalities persisted. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking to young students at Barratt Junior High School, understood that the struggle for justice was not only fought in the streets and courts—it was also fought within the heart and mind of each young person.

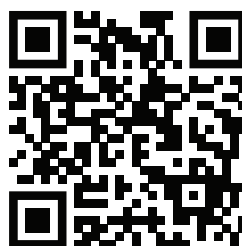
Amidst the chaos of the Vietnam War, growing social unrest, and rising frustration among marginalized communities, Dr. King offered a message of hope and self-determination. He challenged students to see themselves as architects of their own destiny, capable of building lives grounded in dignity, purpose, and moral strength. He reminded them that excellence is not defined by fame or position, but by doing one's work so well that "the living, the dead, or the unborn could do it no better."

Nearly six decades later, his words continue to speak to a generation facing its own defining challenges—inequality, polarization, climate change, and questions of identity and purpose. Dr. King's *Blueprint* calls us to imagine not just what kind of future we want, but what kind of people we must become to build it.

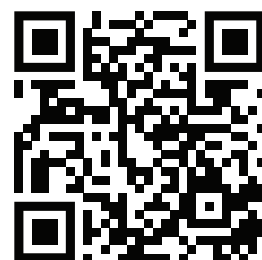
Connect the lessons of history to your personal story and demonstrate how Dr. King's vision continues to shape your understanding of leadership and purpose and how it influences issues of today. Your response should also address:

- How does Dr. King's *What Is Your Life's Blueprint?* address the social and historical challenges of his time?
- How do those same themes—dignity, purpose, integrity, justice, and excellence—remain relevant in your community and your generation?
- What are the main pillars of your personal blueprint, and how will you use them to make a positive difference in your life and in the lives of others?
- In what ways can Dr. King's message inspire action toward equity, justice, and unity in today's world?

READ THE SPEECH



APPLY



All applications for financial assistance programs (i.e. student loans, work compensation, grants, scholarships, special funds, subsidies, prizes, etc.) will be considered by the Riverside Community College District without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or practices: District Compliance Officer, 3801 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501, or (951) 222-8039.