

MVC'S 14TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 22, 2027
8 AM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

At the Crossroads: Chaos or Community?
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Enter to Win a Cash Scholarship

Deadline: November 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm



WIN A SCHOLARSHIP

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



MVC Students: Speech & Spoken Word • **High School Students:** Essay Response
Enter through November 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm

Moreno Valley Conference & 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



ELIGIBILITY

Enrolled MVC 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

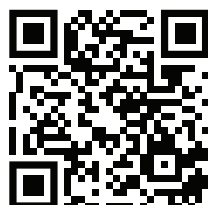
DEADLINE

November 16 by 11:59 pm

READ THE SPEECH



APPLY



PROMPT SUMMARY

Full prompt on application form

AT THE CROSSROADS: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY?

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asked, "Where do we go from here?" In his address and final book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*, King acknowledged the progress of the Civil Rights Movement while emphasizing that the work was far from complete. Despite landmark victories such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, poverty, unequal schools, housing discrimination, economic injustice, and limited access to opportunity remained. Before deciding where to go next, King argued that we must first "honestly recognize where we are now."

Nearly six decades later, we face a similar question. **Have we progressed, remained stagnant, or moved backward—and who gets to define what progress means?**

SPEECH & SPOKEN WORD RESPONSE

This is a brief overview of the scholarship prompt. The full prompt and requirements are provided on the application.

In a 5–7 minute speech or spoken word presentation, address the theme, *At the Crossroads: Chaos or Community?* Consider:

- **Where are we?** What does "here" mean today? What progress has been made, what challenges remain, and how did we arrive at this moment?
- **What is progress?** What does progress mean to you? How should we determine whether changes to policies, protections, and approaches represent progress, stagnation, or regression?
- **Where do we go from here?** Drawing from Dr. King's ideas, history, current realities, and your own experiences or observations, what path should we choose? What responsibility do individuals, communities, institutions, and leaders have in shaping that path?

Your presentation should go beyond describing today's problems. Consider differing perspectives, develop a thoughtful vision for the path forward, and connect Dr. King's ideas to the world you see today. Consider what role your generation can play in shaping what comes next. Whether you choose a traditional speech or spoken word format, your response should reflect your authentic voice and perspective.

At the crossroads before us, what will we choose—and where do we go from here?

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT MVC.EDU/MLK

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.