



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2018

Media contact: Marty Berkowitz  
Phone: 614-644-8608  
Email: [marty.berkowitz@das.ohio.gov](mailto:marty.berkowitz@das.ohio.gov)

## **Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest will focus on Dr. King's legacy**

COLUMBUS – Ohio youth will offer their perspective on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 2018 Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest being held Friday, April 27 at the King Arts Complex, 867 Mount Vernon Ave., Columbus.

Students in grades kindergarten through 12 will compete in four grade-based categories. The contest is open to the public and will be held from 10 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. The students will give original speeches inspired by the legacy of Dr. King based on the theme, "MLK50: Legacy of Love in Pursuit of Justice."

The participants advanced from regional contests in the following districts: Akron (Summit County), Cincinnati, Cleveland (Cuyahoga County), Columbus (Franklin County), Dayton, Marion-Morrow-Knox Tri-counties and southeastern Ohio (covering seven counties).

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, which sponsors this annual event, chose this theme to mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's untimely passing, summarizing the impact of his life's work in the ensuing 50 years. The oratorical contest was expanded in 2018 to increase the students' awareness of Dr. King's life and work. Participants will be judged on their performance, originality and composition.

The winners of each category will be invited to speak at the 2019 Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration on Jan. 10, 2019, in downtown Columbus.

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

For more information about the contest and the other projects of the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, please visit [das.ohio.gov/mlk](http://das.ohio.gov/mlk) or contact the DAS Equal Opportunity Division at 614-466-8380.

---

Ohio Department of Administrative Services  
John R. Kasich, *Governor*  
Robert Blair, *Director*

Office of Communication  
Suite 4095M  
30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

# News Release

---

