

42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Tickets are on Sale!

We at the Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub would like to invite you to our 42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration **on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025**. The event will be on SIUE's campus in the Meridian Ballroom from 11am – 2pm.

In collaboration with partners on campus and in the community, this annual luncheon occurs in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Highlights of the luncheon include a keynote speaker, musical performances and the awarding of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards: SIUE Student Scholarship; Humanitarian Award(s); and Youth Essay, Poetry and Visual Arts Contest (for local youth).

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is [Donzaleigh Abernathy](#)! Ms. Abernathy is the goddaughter of Dr. King, daughter of Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, and an award-winning actress and writer. She is a founding Trustee of the New Visions Foundation/Coalition for Engaged Education and a former Vice President of the Board and New Roads Schools. She was a Spokesperson for the CDC's HIV/AIDS Awareness Program and for Amnesty International. She currently volunteers for Juveniles in the Los Angeles County Justice System.

This year's celebration theme is ***Let Us March On***. This theme stems from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech [“Our God is Marching On”](#) that he delivered on March 25, 1965 on the steps of the State Capital Building at the conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery march. This 54-mile march had 25,000 participants protesting the racism and oppression that African Americans faced at the polls while exercising their constitutional right to vote.

“... I want to say to the people of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around. We are on the move now... The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of brotherhood, the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tickets may be purchased through [our website](#) or by check by emailing MLKCelebration@siue.edu. Ticket sales will close on **Wednesday, January 15th**.

Applications for the scholarship and awards will close on November 24th. Students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to apply or nominate for the awards throughout the fall semester. Details for applications and nominations can be found on [our website](#).

To make a donation to the SIUE Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Endowment please [click here](#).

Interested in being a sponsor or would you like to sponsor a student to attend the luncheon? [Click here](#) for more details.

Contact The Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub at MLKCelebration@siue.edu or 618-650-2686 with any questions. We hope to see you there!