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## Winners named at statewide MLK oratorical contest

COLUMBUS — Ohio students inspired by the lessons and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presented original speeches on his teachings during the 15th Annual Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest held today in Columbus.

Twenty-four regional contest winners from grades kindergarten through 12 spoke before family, friends and judges at the King Arts Complex.

Speakers were judged on performance, originality and composition.

The following speakers placed first, second and third in their respective divisions:

**Senior Division (grades nine through 12)** First place – John Merkel, Lima Senior High School, Lima; second place – Taylor Wynne, Charles F. Brush High School, South Euclid; third place – Danyelle Dukes, Charles F. Brush High School, Lyndhurst.

**Junior Division (grades six through eight)** First place – Courtney Stewart, Columbus City Preparatory School for Girls, Columbus; second place – McKenna Hensley, Arts Impact Middle School, New Albany; third place – Morayo Obayemi, Columbus City Preparatory School for Girls, Columbus.

**Intermediate Division (grades three through five)** First place – Mia Kraus, Clinton Elementary School, Columbus; second place – Olivia Moore, Hilltop Elementary School, Beachwood; third place – Nevaeh King, Avalon Elementary School, Columbus.

**Primary Division (grades kindergarten through two)** First place – James Oram, Fifth Avenue International Alternative Elementary School, Columbus; second place – Nathan Edwards, Schumacher Community Learning Center, Akron; third place – John Hlavac, Glendale Primary School, Bedford.

First-place finishers are invited to speak at the 2015 Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration on Jan. 15 in downtown Columbus. The celebration and oratorical contest are sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. The commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

“Just like Dr. King, these inspiring young people will be the leaders of their generation,” said Rev. Joel L. King, Jr., vice chair of the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. “The future is in good hands.”