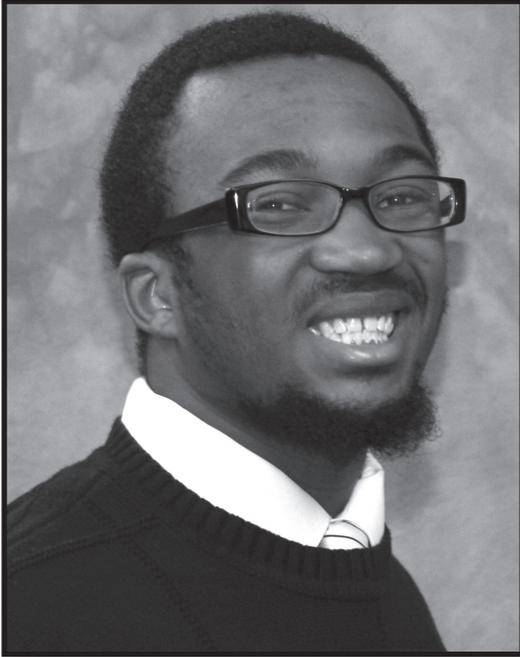


## Youth: Capturing the Vision of Dr. King Award

*Award criteria: The recipient, who must have been younger than 21 during the nomination period, exemplifies leadership, nonviolence and commitment to excellence and interracial cooperation. He also demonstrates an adherence to one or more of Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence.*



### **Da'Quan Knuckles**

Lima

Da'Quan Knuckles, 20, is already starting to give back to the community. Knuckles competed in the regional Dr. MLK Oratorical Contest held in Lima in 2012 and 2013. Both years he won his age group, qualifying him to compete in the annual Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest, which is held in Columbus each April and sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission.

Knuckles continued his involvement in the contest through I Am Making a Difference, an organization that helps young people. Twice a week during the school year he met with the contestants,

making suggestions on the delivery of their speeches and encouraging them when they did well.

He volunteered while carrying a full-time college course load at The Ohio State University. An English major with an African American studies minor, Knuckles' career goals are to become a motivational speaker and a poet. With his tenacity, his nominator believes he will reach his goals.

His other volunteer work has included leading discussions for the YMCA Young Achievers.