OHIO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION

AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission annually presents awards to individuals or organizations whose deeds and actions are consistent with Dr. King's teachings of nonviolent social and economic change.

Instructions

Applicants must be Ohio residents. Please complete this nomination form as thoroughly as possible. **Only complete nominations will be considered**. Attach any supporting documentation to the nomination form. The Commission reserves the discretion to change the nomination category.

Submission deadline: Emailed, faxed or postmarked by *Oct. 7, 2015*.

I. NOMINEE IDENTIFICATION

(Please complete the following information completely.)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____ County: _____

Occupation: _____ Email: _____

II. AWARD CATEGORY

(Please check one box that best relates to the contribution of the nominee. If more than one category is checked, nomination is subject to disqualification.)

1. Community Building ☐

2. Cultural Awareness ☐

3. Economic Opportunity ☐

4. Educational Excellence ☐

5. Health Equity & Awareness ☐

6. Social Justice ☐

7. Youth: Capturing the Vision of MLK ☐

8. The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Governor's Humanitarian Award ☐

III. PERSONAL DATA

(Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

A. Is the nominee in a paid position to perform the contributions for which you are recognizing?

B. How long has the nominee served in the capacity indicated by the selected category?

C. Discuss the type of accomplishments/contributions the nominee has made in the selected category.

D. Describe the positive impact made in the selected category.

E. Is there additional information you think judges should know about the nominee?

IV. REFERENCES

(Please provide the information requested below for two people who can substantiate the information you have provided about the nominee.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Phone (daytime):_____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Phone (daytime): _____

Email: _____

NOMINATED BY:

Name: _____

Phone (daytime):_____Phone (evening): _____Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Submit to:
Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
ATTN: Bobbi Bell
Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Equal Opportunity Division
4200 Surface Road
Columbus, Ohio 43228
Telephone: 614-466-8380; Fax: 614-728-5628; Email: mlk@das.ohio.gov
Deadline for submission: Emailed, faxed or postmarked by Oct. 7, 2015.
das.ohio.gov/mlk

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission was established to recognize Dr. King's significance as a civil rights leader. In keeping with the commission's primary focus, each January the commission hosts the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration, which honors Ohioans who work to keep Dr. King's dream alive and have carried on his philosophy of nonviolent social change. The commission presents these awards in a celebration held in downtown Columbus for state employees and members of the community. Additionally, elementary, middle school and high school students who won first place at the 2015 statewide oratorical contest serve as the event's keynote speakers. The students speak about peace, unity and Dr. King's influence in their lives.

The 2016 celebration will be held Jan. 14. This marks the 31st annual celebration.

OHIO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION

AWARDS CRITERIA

The annual awards program recognizes service and achievements of Ohio residents and organizations in areas consistent with the teachings and standards set by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King's commitment to seeking racial, social and economic justice through nonviolent struggle benefited not only the victims of oppression, but society as a whole. Annual awards in the following categories lift up both concrete achievements and the continuing spirit of Dr. King's dreams for this nation.

1. COMMUNITY BUILDING

"*I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up,*" Dr. King said in his address accepting the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10, 1964, in Oslo, Norway.

Nominees may be individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions in building a sense of unity among Ohio citizens. Nominees should have demonstrated ability in building safer communities through various activities and programs that help to revitalize areas and make our communities a more wholesome and desirable place for living, learning and loving. Nominators must demonstrate how the nominee has used Dr. King's vision of nonviolent social change in his/her effort to bring people from diverse backgrounds together successfully to build a better community.

2. CULTURAL AWARENESS

Nominees must demonstrate an appreciation for diversity and evidence skill in building and maintaining harmonious cross-cultural relationships. Nominations of organizations and individuals should identify specific initiatives and accomplishments that foster Dr. King's vision of unity among people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Dec. 10, 1964, in Oslo, Norway.

3. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Nominees may be municipalities, businesses or organizations that seek to improve the quality of life for its citizens in economically challenged areas through economic incentive programs.

Nominees must demonstrate accomplishments in one or more of the following areas: workforce training development programs; upgrading skills of existing workforce; infrastructure improvements; creation of community partnerships; housing assistance programs; energy efficiency programs; environmental programs; encouragement of new business startups; ability to take advantage of state and federal aid to provide economic opportunity.

"The curse of poverty has no justification in our age. It is socially as cruel and blind as the practice of cannibalism at the dawn of civilization, when men ate each other because they had not yet learned to take food from the soil or to consume the abundant animal life around them. The time has come for us to civilize ourselves by the total, direct and immediate abolition of poverty." Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* 1967.

4. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

In recognizing the personal commitment and example that Dr. King provided for academic achievement, nominees in this category should have demonstrated a personal commitment to scholarship and/or attainment of educational goals despite significant barriers or obstacles (e.g., learning disability, poverty, etc.). Dr. King's accomplishments during a time of segregation and oppression challenge us today to pursue excellence through a commitment to life-long learning. Nominees should demonstrate this desire.

Nominees must demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in eradicating systemic barriers that impede the attainment of academic excellence. The activities/programs of the organizations could include but are not limited to mentoring, tutoring, innovative pre-school programs, highly effective pre-college programs, provision of scholarships, etc. Special consideration will be given to the nominees who provide children access to the tools of technology (e.g., computers, Internet, etc.) and incorporate effective parental involvement.

Nominators must demonstrate how the nominees have shown a commitment to Dr. King's dream of social justice for all Americans through the provision/use of equal access, to the means/resources of learning and the full utilization of educational opportunities.

"… *rise up and know that, as you struggle for justice, you do not struggle alone,"* sermon by Dr. King at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., April 7, 1957.

5. HEALTH EQUITY AND AWARENESS

Nominees must offer exemplary community outreach and educational programs that provide an under-served population in the state. These services should increase the accessibility (i.e., awareness, cost, transportation) of health care for the under-served while providing a high quality of customer service. Critical issues in achieving health equity and awareness can include provisions for drug treatment, HIV testing, screenings, prescription programs for the uninsured/underinsured, prenatal care and pediatric care. Organizations that provide health care and entities that facilitate health care delivery services are eligible to participate in this category.

Nominations must document support of services that progress toward the realization of Dr. King's vision of an America that provides the real promise and fulfillment of hope for the poor.

"*It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor, both black and white, through the poverty program,*" Dr. King's speech "Beyond Vietnam," April 4, 1967, New York, N.Y.

6. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Nominees should have made significant contributions to achieving justice for individuals or communities. Nominees should note contributions made through the legal, legislative and governmental systems as they apply to the more vulnerable elements of our society (e.g., sentencing disparity, red lining, census under counting, voter registration, environmental justice, etc.). Nominations must describe activities that embrace Dr. King's commitment to nonviolence while fostering social justice.

"*But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.*" Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Aug. 28, 1963, Washington, D.C.

7. YOUTH: CAPTURING THE VISION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Nominees must be younger than 21 for the period covered by the nomination. They should exemplify leadership, nonviolence, commitment to excellence and interracial cooperation. Nominations by schools, community organizations or employers should include specific situations where the nominee demonstrated an adherence to one or more of Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence, which are:

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people: Nonviolence is a positive force confronting the forces of injustice, and utilizes the righteous indignation and the spiritual, emotional and intellectual capabilities of people as the vital force for change and reconciliation.

2. The Beloved Community is the framework for the future: The nonviolent concept is an overall effort to achieve a reconciled world by raising the level of relationships among people to a height where justice prevails and persons attain their full human potential.

3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil: The nonviolent approach helps one analyze the fundamental conditions, policies and practices of the conflict rather than reacting to one's opponents or their personalities.

4. Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal: Self-chosen suffering is redemptive and helps the movement grow in a spiritual as well as a humanitarian dimension. The moral authority of voluntary suffering for a goal communicates the concern to one's own friends and community as well as to the opponent.

5. Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence: The nonviolent attitude permeates all aspects of the campaign. It provides mirror type reflection of the reality of the condition to one's opponent and the community at large. Specific activities must be designed to help maintain a high level of spirit and morale during a nonviolent campaign.

6. The universe is on the side of justice: Truth is universal and human society and each human being is oriented to the just sense of order of the universe. The fundamental values in all of the world's great religions include the concept that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. For the nonviolent practitioner, nonviolence introduces a new moral context in which nonviolence is both the means and the end.

"I say to you who are graduating today, you have opportunities that did not come to your mothers and fathers. Doors opening now that would not open in the past and the greatest challenge facing you as you go out into the world is to be ready to enter these doors as they open. This is a challenge." Excerpt from the commencement address by Dr. King to Central State University, June 8, 1958.

8. THE OHIO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GOVERNOR'S HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Nominees must be outstanding individuals who act independently of associations and organizations. These individuals give their time and service freely to those in need without question and often without recognition. This award seeks to honor those quiet soldiers who promote the welfare of humanity and the elimination of pain and suffering through their own selfless service.

Nominees should represent a personal activism that has led him/her to render unheralded long-term service to the community. Individuals nominated should stand as role models for others to emulate. Those nominees who have gone far beyond the normal duty of being a good neighbor receive special consideration. It is the individual who watches the children when no one else is there; the individual who organizes children's games to get them off the streets; the individual who cares for the sick and feeds the hungry. It is the individual who does what no one else will, and does so because that is who he or she is.

"*In other words, it is that inward concern that causes one to push forward, to achieve his own goals and ambitions. The breadth of life as we shall use it here is the outward concern for the welfare of others. And the height of life is the upward reach for God. Now you got to have all three of these to have a complete life.*" Dr. King's sermon "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life," April 9, 1967, Chicago, New Covenant Baptist Church.