

35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOX CITIES

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Celebration*

JANUARY

**19**

6–7:30 P.M.

LAWRENCE  
UNIVERSITY  
MEMORIAL  
CHAPEL



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

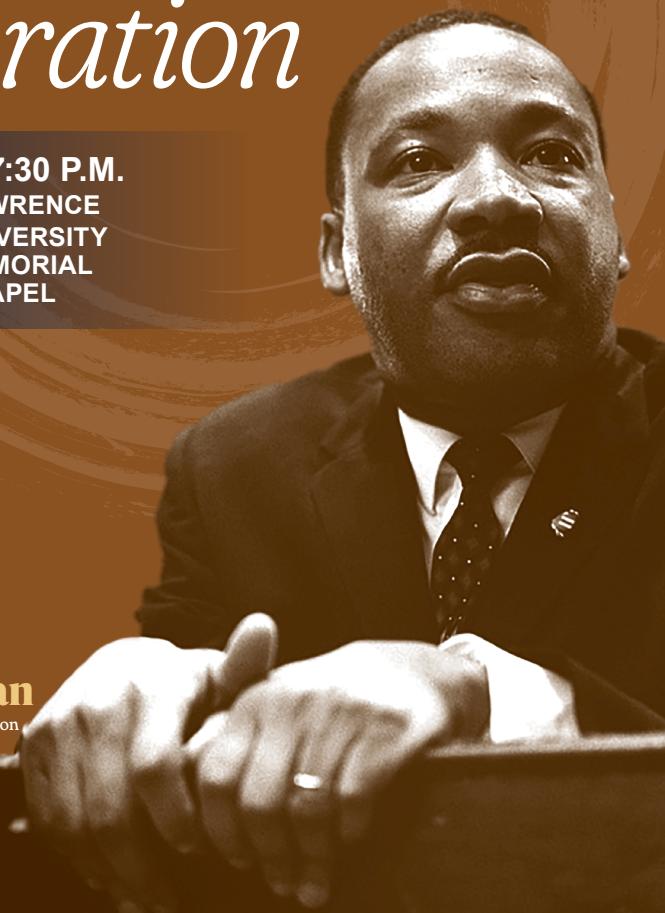
**Dr. Sam Coleman**

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction  
for the Oshkosh Area School District



GUEST PERFORMING ARTIST:

**Sam Thousand**



LAWRENCE  
UNIVERSITY  
APPLETON, WISCONSIN



# Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
God who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
God who by your might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget you.  
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.*

— James Weldon Johnson- 1921

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## *Celebration*

### “The Dream is Joyful: Learning Our History, Living Our Power”

Prelude.....	Celebrating 35 years slide show
Land Acknowledgment.....	Laura Jones
Welcome and Greetings.....	Mayor Jake Woodford
Song: <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> (We Invite everyone to sing) .....	The MLK Community Choir and The Qmøladé Academy under the Direction of Kirk Kelly
Prayer .....	Bishop Gerald Manns
Song: This Little Light of Mine .....	The Qmøladé Academy
Poem Reading .....	Naomi Katshayi
Dance “Lyft me Up” .....	Members of Lawrence University Dance Team and AfroFusion Amell Quezada and Alica Brown
Poem.....	Amirah Matthews
Musical Performance .....	Sam Thousand
Keynote Address.....	Dr. Sam Coleman
Award Presentations .....	Eldridge Alexander (MC)
	Jane LaChapelle McCarty MLK Community Leader Award
	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educator Award
Song: <i>We Are One</i> .....	Sam Thousand
Closing Words .....	Eldridge Alexander

# Special Thanks

## 2026 CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Clarence Crane - AASD

Lissette Cruz-Jiménez - BOLDT

Carolyn Desrosiers - Volunteer Fox Cities

Laura Jone s- Lawrence University

Dennis Kelley - ThedaCare

Wendy Krueger - United Way Fox Cities

Dennetra Williams - Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley

Venn Peters - Lawrence University

Jesus Smith - Lawrence University

Timber Smith - City of Appleton

## JANE LACHAPELLE MCCARTY MLK AWARDS COMMITTEE

2026 MLK Celebration Committee

## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS COMMITTEE

2026 MLK Celebration Committee

# Previous Recipients

## JANE LACHAPELLE MCCARTY MLK COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD

1995 Ronald Dunlap	1	2010 Kathi Seifert
1996 Pam Her, Ph. D.		2011 Terry Dawson
1997 My Thao Vue Ly		2012 Timoth Hanna
1998 Timothy Gierke		2013 Kamles Varma
1999 Richard Myers		2014 Dr. Sabrina Robbins
2000 Teresa Castillo		2015 Nicholas Hoffman
2001 Schott Peebles		2016 Tony Awofeso
2002 Joe Laux		2017 Sara Long-Radloff
2003 Kathy Flores		2018 Yee Lee Vue
2004 Dr. Bola Delano- Oriaran		2019 Norys Pina
2005 Juna "Mito" Kudaka		2020 Carla Manns
2006 Shannon Kenevan		2022 Cainan Davenport
2007 Bob Pedersen		2023 Ernesto Gonzalez Jr.
2008 Nancy Heykes		2025 Pastor Mahnie Williams
2009 Henry Golde		

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EDUCATOR AWARD

2015 Amy Xiong
2016 Ben Vogel
2017 Dr. Amy Ongiri
2018 Mayra Pasayes
2020 Pa Lee Moua, Ph. D
2022 Mai Lo Lee
2023 Alexandria Molito
2025 Dr. Bola Delano Oriaran

# Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Sam Coleman

Dr. Sam Coleman currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for the Oshkosh Area School District. He is a highly recognized and awarded educational leader including being honored by Madison365 as one of Wisconsin's Most Influential Black Leaders of 2023 and Wisconsin's 2024 Man of Excellence.

Dr. Coleman was also recognized by the Oshkosh Northwestern Newspaper on the 2024 People of the Year List for his leadership in the Oshkosh Area School District. Most recently, Dr. Coleman was honored by the Wisconsin State Assembly for his influence and impact as a leader for education and opportunity in Wisconsin.



Dr. Coleman's work is focused on providing high quality education for all students, expanding access to opportunities, and closing gaps in achievement outcomes, particularly in reading and literacy, for students who have historically been marginalized by and within systems.

As a mentor, community servant, and youth advocate, Dr. Coleman believes that his calling in life is to help raise up a generation of leaders who will inspire unity, justice, pride, achievement, and self-determination.

Dr. Coleman earned an undergraduate degree in business, a master's degree in education from Louisiana State University-Shreveport, a Master's degree in education from Concordia University, a Master's degree in educational leadership from U-W Madison and a Ph.D. in educational leadership University of Wisconsin-Madison.

# Thank you to our participants:

## THE QMQLADÉ ACADEMY

Zola Briggman	India Bess
Niklaus Cakmak	EvaSophia Desrosiers
Wilder Ciardo	Adelynn Hill Carlson
Alayna Givens	Stephan Oguntade
Legend Havis	Stephanie Oguntade
Sage Johnson	Rhyiah Scott
Mahlik Kelly	Winter Stone
Ariel Moffett	Lamonie Weathers
Ocir Montgomery	
Aminah Mordica Cain	
Royalty Young	
Nasiah Zabibu	

## STUDENT SPEAKERS

Naomie Katshayi, STAR Scholar  
Amirah Matthews, Junior Youth of the Year Winner

CHOIR DIRECTOR Kirk Kelly

PIANIST Jasmine Maller

## THE MLK COMMUNITY CHOIR PARTICIPANTS

# Thank you to our co-sponsors:

Appleton Area School District

City of Appleton

ThedaCare

Lawrence University Intercultural Center

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region Vision Fund

ESTHER

Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities

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