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**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

Appleton, Wisconsin, October 17th, 2014 --- Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities invites young people in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> to enter the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest.

Winners will be invited to read their essays at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015 at the Lawrence University Memorial Chapel in Appleton. Keynote speaker for the event is Gloria Ladson-Billings who is the Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association. Her research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. She is the author of *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* and *Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms*.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Fulfilling the Dream of Opportunity." Equal opportunity is defined as "a stipulation that all people should be treated similarly, unhampered by artificial barriers or prejudices or preferences." Writers should relate their essays to the following question: "How can we fulfill a dream of equal opportunity for all in our schools, community and country?" Submissions may be in essay or poetry form, but should not exceed one page.

The deadline to submit essays is 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A sheet of paper separate from the essay should contain the writer's name, email, address, telephone number, school, and grade. Contestants should not write names on essays and should not use staples to attach name and essay sheets.

Entries can be sent to 2015 King Essay Contest, c/o United Way Fox Cities, 1455 Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952. Winners will be notified by phone or email. Questions about the contest can be directed to Tony Gonzalez at (920) 954-7211.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is sponsored by Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities and the Lawrence University Diversity Center. The event is free, and the public is invited to attend.

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