



EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY

The 24th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

“We must accept finite disappointment,
but never lose infinite hope.”



2020 Julianna V. Bolt Art Award Winner Kyras Smith of Pocono Mountain East High School

January 18, 2021

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2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Celebration

Program

"Lift Every Voice" Nadeen Edwards
Gospel Recording Artist

Welcome Kenneth Long
Interim President, East Stroudsburg University

Invocation Pastor Lynda Keefer, Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

Dance Performance Elevé Dance Theater with Artistic Director, Deidre Sears

Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie Scholarship Award Clavertis Miller
Member, 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee

Introduction of Keynote Speaker Lyesha Fleming
Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education

Keynote Speaker Sarah Khan
Senior Curriculum Training Developer, Anti-sexual Violence Organization

Spoken Word Performance Artress B. White, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, English Department, ESU

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Kenneth Long

Recognition and Closing Remarks Kenneth Long

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 list'ning 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 chast'ning 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 father's 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,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, let us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James W. Johnson

Music: John R. Johnson

— Our Keynote Speaker —



Sarah Khan

Sarah Batool Khan '15 is the senior curriculum training developer at an anti-sexual violence organization and is based in Washington, D.C.

Khan is responsible for helping create training for staff and volunteers who support survivors and their loved ones visiting the organization's two crisis hotlines. This anti-sexual violence organization partners with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country, including Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. (WRMC), an organization where Khan served as a counselor-advocate and benefited greatly from the mentorship of the staff.

As a community member, Khan is involved in the Justice for Muslims Collective. Their mission is to dismantle institutional and structural Islamophobia through raising political consciousness and shifting narratives, community empowerment, organizing and healing, and building alliances across movements with a focus on the greater Washington, D.C. region. She is a leadership core member for Justice For Muslims Collective where she works on their rapid response efforts to provide direct mutual aid to families impacted by COVID-19 and has worked to pass the No Muslim Ban Act.

Khan's background includes serving as the director of English curriculum for Paper Airplanes Inc. where she created professional training for Syrian and Afghan refugees and their tutors all over the world. She currently also works with Business Research and Services Institute (BRASI) in a curriculum evaluation capacity. Her passion for grassroots education and community-building has allowed her to serve as a Fulbright Fellow in Turkey, a visiting teacher in Cuba, and a presenter at international conferences on the topics of literature and trauma-informed learning.

Khan received her B.A. Honors from Glendon College, York University, Toronto, and her M.Ed. in professional and secondary education from ESU. She is humbled to be speaking to this year's theme, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope" because she believes hope-building is foundational to the work she does every day. She loves running, painting, and experimenting in the kitchen. She currently resides in Maryland with her husband and their cat.

Special thanks to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee

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Lurine Allotey
Miguel Barbosa
Wayne Bolt

Lianna DeSantis
Lyesha Fleming
Ken Gustafson
Selena Hines

Clavertis Miller
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Elizabeth Richardson
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Additional thanks to those at East Stroudsburg University who generously provided their time and expertise to assist the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee

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Alexis Steber (Warrior TV)
Curt Burton (Instructional Resources)
Fernando Alcantar (SAA)
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Julianna V. Bolt Art Awards

Previous First Place Julianna V. Bolt Essay/Art Award Recipients

2021: *Art contest was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

2020: Kyrrah Smith, Pocono Mountain East High School

2019: Brianna Soule, East Stroudsburg High School North

2018: Christie Lee, Stroudsburg High School

2017: Christie Lee, Stroudsburg High School

2016: Kirsten McCorquodale, Stroudsburg High School

2015: Kristan Lai, Pleasant Valley High School

2014: Christina Balog, East Stroudsburg High School South

2013: Gary Tuzinkiewicz, East Stroudsburg High School South

2012: Ayarnah Jordan, Pleasant Valley High School

2011: Kayla Samuels, Pleasant Valley High School

2010: Chandler Klein, Stroudsburg High School

2009: Samantha Warick, Stroudsburg High School

2008: Martyna Filip, Stroudsburg High School

2007: Kelly Barrieres, East Stroudsburg High School North

2006: Jesse Rourke, East Stroudsburg High School North

2005: Tiffany Ahee, Stroudsburg High School

2004: Louis Fenton, Stroudsburg High School

2003: Kate Gavulis, Pleasant Valley High School

2002: Khaleeqa Rouse, Stroudsburg High School

2001: Carolyn Hemmer, Pocono Mountain South High School

2000: Craig Bair, Stroudsburg High School

*Due to COVID-19, we are unable to honor
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through our
annual Art Contest.*

*We continue to recognize the Bolt Family
for their many contributions to ESU and
the MLK Celebration Program.*

*We look forward to bringing back the
Art Contest for future celebrations.*

The Person Behind the Julianna V. Bolt Awards



The Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest was named after a truly wonderful and courageous woman. Julie, as everyone called her, was someone special not only to her family, but to everyone who met her. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and married Wayne Bolt in 1968. She has two great sons, Wayne Anthony and Jason Philip. Julie and Wayne moved to the Poconos in 1987 and helped build and manage the new Hillside Inn.

In 1994, Julie became the accountant for the East Stroudsburg University Foundation and was extremely happy doing something she loved. Her youngest son, Jason, was then graduating from high school and entering ESU. For most parents, this is a happy and emotional time, but unfortunately, Julie was stricken with multiple sclerosis. For those who knew Julie, it is easy to understand why her family wants to continue with Julianna V. Bolt Awards. Julie was a remarkable woman who never stopped having hope as well as giving it to others. And as long as there is hope, there is always a reason to keep living.

Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie:

A History



Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie

Mary Gertrude Smith was born in Buckingham County, Virginia, November 30, 1886, and first moved to Pennsylvania at age three, in 1889.

In 1904, Mary became the first African-American woman to graduate from East Stroudsburg Normal School (founded 1893), today known as East Stroudsburg University.

Soon thereafter, Ms. Smith met and married the Rev. Jacob Benjamin Boddie, who at the time was pastor of a church in Scranton. Together in 1907 they moved to New Rochelle, N.Y., where she became an ardent, active participant in community affairs, a Girl Scout troop leader, an organizer of the first "colored" Boy Scout troop, a member of New Rochelle Charter League and a lifetime member of the National Parent Teachers Association. She campaigned for the employment of the first black teacher to be hired by the New Rochelle Board of Education.

For 29 years her husband pastored Bethesda Baptist Church, one of the largest Baptist churches in Westchester County. As the pastor's wife she was president of the missionary society, a Sunday school teacher and president of the women auxiliary of the N.Y. State Colored Baptist Convention.

These endeavors and accomplishments reveal only a partial portrait of the magnificence of Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie. A more meaningful revelation manifests itself in and through the accomplishments of her children.

She was the mother of 15 children, 11 of whom survived to adulthood. Ms. Boddie's recognition of the importance and value of education, instilled in her through her East Stroudsburg Normal School experience, was passed on to her children. All of her children pursued and obtained degrees beyond the high school level in the fields of religion, medicine, law, education and community service.

Her recognition and acceptance of the importance of education in one's life has been passed on to and inherited by Ms. Boddie's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Every year since 1928, a member of the Boddie family has been enrolled at a college or university somewhere in the country.

This is her legacy. The flame went out on Sunday, July 27, 1941. Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie died at Hudson City Hospital, Hudson, N.Y., at the age of 54, the victim of a heart attack.

Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In 1904, Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie was the first student of color to graduate from what is today East Stroudsburg University. This scholarship has been established to assist in the retention of matriculated full-time students of color at ESU. Each scholarship is valued at \$3,350 and will be credited to the recipient's account for the spring semester. The candidates who apply for this scholarship have been asked to describe, in essay form, their commitment to social justice through community and/or university involvement.

Qualifying criteria for the Boddie scholarship include: a minimum grade point average of 3.0; enrollment as a full-time sophomore (30 semester hour credits completed) at the time of application; and demonstration of financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and verified by the office of student financial aid. Scholarship applicants also must write an essay of 250 words describing their dedication to Dr. King's philosophy and demonstrate a commitment to social justice through evidence of community and/or university involvement. Proceeds from the MLK celebration make this scholarship possible.

ESU Judges for this year's scholarship award:

Joyce L. Simpson, Ed.D., *professor emerita of speech pathology and audiology*

Neal H. Simpson, *professor emeritus of academic enrichment and learning*

To support the Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie Scholarship, please visit www.esufoundation.org/give-now



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— 2021 Boddie Scholarship Recipients —

Brittni Borgella

Brittni Borgella, a senior history major from East Stroudsburg, is a transfer student at ESU. She attributes her grit and passion for education to her parents. Born of Jamaican and Haitian descent, Borgella took an interest in history and law primarily because her father was a history teacher. Her mother is a registered nurse, and she credits both of her parents with her ability to do the hard work necessary to earn her degree and fulfill her dreams. Borgella is pleased that she's found a home at ESU that is welcoming. She is a member of the Tau Sigma honor society and looks forward to graduating and becoming an educator that will "impact the lives of other students, helping them to understand the reality of social issues and how the past impacts today."

Ariel Kyle

Ariel Kyle, a sophomore majoring in special education/early childhood education from Denville, N.J., used her childhood experiences in foster care and as a camp counselor for individuals with special needs to help shape career path in early childhood and special education. Kyle attributes her strengths to the influences of African American female role models within her church community who offered (and continue to offer) her guidance, and the academic programs, cultural diversity and track program at ESU that helped to shape the person she is today. Kyle looks to the knowledge she gains as an ESU student as a foundation of her future. According to Kyle, "I believe that what you do matters. It shapes who you become."

Shade Stokes-Campbell

Shade Stokes-Campbell, a junior public health major from Upper Darby, Pa., has envisioned a career in healthcare administration – not simply to care for patients but to ensure they have access to affordable treatment. To prepare for a leadership role, she has been involved in a host of campus organizations since her freshman year. She currently holds executive board positions for the National Council of Negro Women (third year on executive board, second year as treasurer), the Black Student Union (second year on executive board, first year as public relations chairwoman), and the Student Government Association (first year on executive board, first year as public relations chairwoman). She has also attended the Black Solidarity Conference, a three-day conference at Yale University, and the Sankofa Conference at Bloomsburg University where she met the late Trayvon Martin's mother. Stokes-Campbell is also part of the Women of Color Initiative committee (WOCI) as well as the Diversity and Inclusion committee. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Stokes-Campbell also held down three part-time jobs on campus as a peer mentor (to more than 50 first-year students), resident advisor and program assistant for Admissions. She continues to work two of those jobs remotely while also working a full-time job as she continues her studies in public health.

Alexis Starr Wilson

Alexis Starr Wilson, a senior early childhood education (PreK-4) major from Nanticoke, Pa., attributes her academic success to her family – her mother, brother and grandmother. But her passion to pursue a degree in early childhood education and work with children of all ages is deeply rooted in her internship at Disney as well as her experiences within a daycare, babysitting for a new family and working both a day and residential camp. A transfer student, Wilson discovered and honed her leadership skills as a member of Psi Xi, ESU's chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority and has expanded her involvement to her post as the president of the University's Cultural Greek Counsel, vice president of her sorority and in her on-campus positions as an orientation leader, a tour guide and as a member of the University Police team while also starting her own small business. Wilson prides herself in her communication skills and truly enjoys her opportunities to welcome incoming freshmen and get to know the newest of students. She also knows that the connections she has made at ESU have helped her to build self-confidence and discipline that will certainly help her in all her future endeavors.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards —

East Stroudsburg University Student Award – Marcus Narcisse

Marcus Narcisse, a December 2020 graduate who majored in special education and rehabilitative services from Orange, N.J., spreads his passion for empowering those with disabilities and supporting those with cancer across ESU's campus. During his junior year at ESU, he lost his mother to cancer. Moving forward, Narcisse made a personal commitment to honor his mother's life by dedicating his education and involvement in campus activities to purposeful community service and volunteerism.

Narcisse is currently a member of ESU's marching band and the national honorary fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi and he also took an active role in campus fundraising initiatives associated with Colleges Against Cancer. Proud of his Haitian decent, Narcisse also considers himself an advocate for hope and positivity and is a great example of Dr. King's own words, "... We must accept finite disappointment. But never lose infinite hope."

East Stroudsburg University Faculty/Staff Award – R. Samantha Williams

R. Samantha Williams is a counselor/instructor in ESU's Counseling and Psychological Services department. Her primary responsibility is to provide a full-range of psychological services to ESU students. Duties include completing intake assessments, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, outreach programming, referral, timely completion of clinical documentation, and related duties within CAPS. New to the ESU community, Williams has added tremendous value to the campus in understanding and addressing the mental health needs of ESU's student population, particularly during these stressful times of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to her nominator, Williams' efforts will "... provide our communities with not just more strong graduates who are well rounded academically, but also equipped with the necessary mental stamina to become healthy, balanced and reliable leaders."

Williams brings nearly 15 years of counseling and mental health services to ESU. Most recently, she was a therapist with Greater Insight Family Therapy in Mt. Pocono and earlier in her career, she was a caseworker, supervisor then program manager for Monroe County Children and Youth Services for eight years. Williams earned her master's degree in mental health counseling from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. She is a licensed professional counselor for Pennsylvania (LPC), a board certified - national certified counselor in Pennsylvania (BC-NCC), a certified clinical trauma professional (CCTP), a board certified tele-mental health provider (BC-TMH), a certified child welfare trainer and a quality service reviewer for child welfare.

Community Member Award – Christa Caceras

Christa Caceres, president and political action committee chair of the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP from Bushkill, Pa., has been a resident of the Pocono Mountains for more than 15 years. In addition to her roles with the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP, she also serves the eighth congressional district in Pennsylvania as a constituent advocate for the Honorable Matt Cartwright. According to her biography, Caceres, a childhood survivor of domestic violence and sexual abuse, is focused on issues associated with women, children and sexual assault victims. Her leadership and advocacy has led her to hold seats on local advisory committees and membership in several organizations. She is on the board of directors for Safe Haven of Pike County, the Greater Pike Community Foundation, the Pocono Mountains United Way (PMUW) and is co-chair for PMUW's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Cohort.

Her influence in the regional community is profound. In 2019, Caceres was named the Pike County director of the PA Democratic Black Caucus and in 2020, following the nationwide review of law enforcement, she formed the Monroe County Community Roundtable intended to unite regional chiefs of police with local NAACP to develop positive changes for the community. Caceres earned her bachelor's degree in legal studies – jurisprudence and a master's degree in legal studies – law and public policy from California University of Pennsylvania. She enjoys spending time with her husband of more than 15 years.

***Selection of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards was made possible by the
Office of the President and the MLK Award Recommendation Committee.***

The members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee and ESU Interim President Kenneth Long, wish to express their appreciation to the following sponsors for their generous contributions to this meaningful event:

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Thank you to all of the individual donors who supported the endowed scholarship this year.

*Proceeds from this event will benefit the
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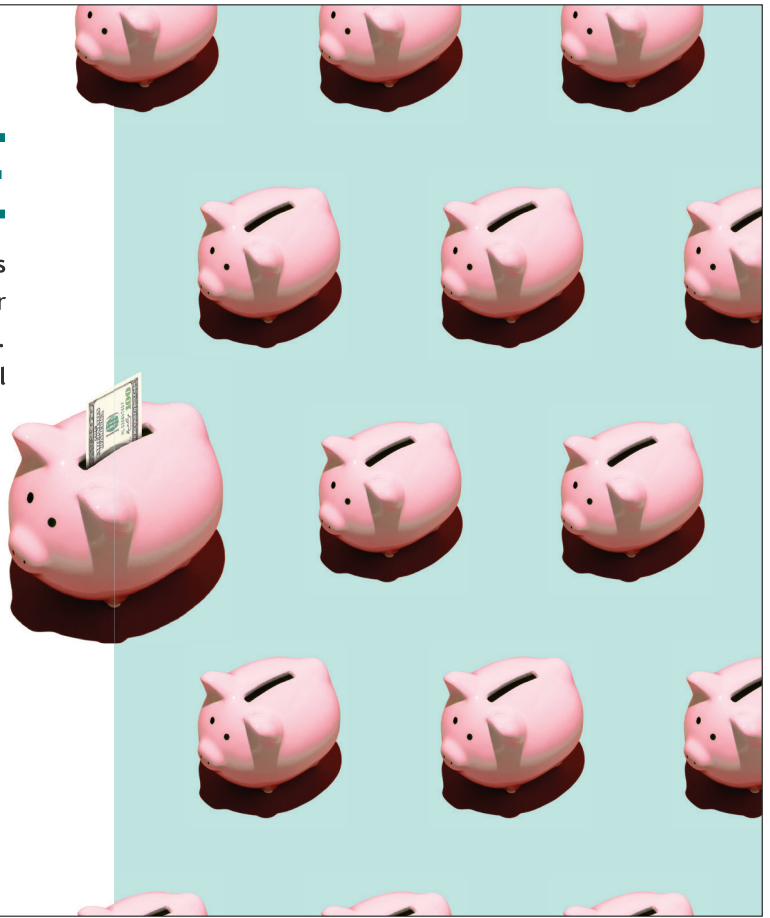
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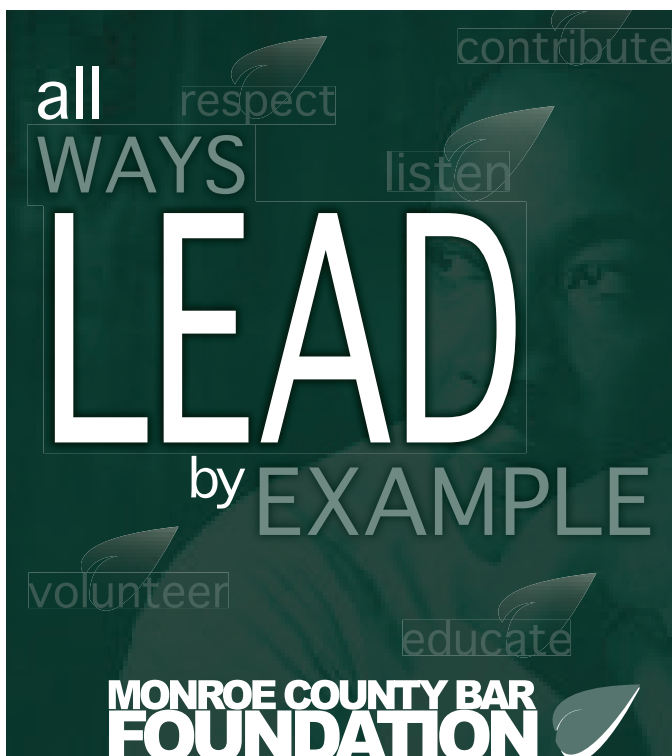


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“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

Today, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania joins the nation in observing the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The faculty, staff, and students at ESU celebrate and promote Dr. King’s beliefs in equality, freedom, justice, and non-violence.

These are also beliefs and concepts upon which this nation was founded. Dr. King’s work reminds us that freedom is most effectively exercised and maintained through unity and a relentless pursuit of justice.

The East Stroudsburg University Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was initiated by President Robert J. Dillman in 1998. Since its inception, 42 Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie Scholarships have been awarded to ESU students, and a total of 64 MLK community and university awards have been presented. The essay/art contest, which began in 2000, also continues to be a valued part of the community event.



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This policy is placed in this document in accordance with state and federal laws including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as well as all applicable federal and state executive orders.

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