25th Annual
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION
Monday, January 17, 2022

"Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream."

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(Art by winners of the Julianna V. Bolt Art Award)
The 25th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Virtual Celebration

is sponsored by

St. Luke’s University Health Network

St. Luke’s University Health Network honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is proud to support East Stroudsburg University and their mission to promote intellectual curiosity and academic excellence.
A Look Back on 25 Years ................................................................. Nadeen Edwards
Gospel Recording Artist
Performing “Lift Every Voice”

Welcome ..................................................................................... Kenneth Long
Interim President, East Stroudsburg University

Invocation .................................................................................... Minister Debra Y. Fraser-Howze

Vocal Performance ................................................................. Robin Smith ’04
Performing “Run” (original composition)

Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest .............................................................. Wayne Bolt
Founder, Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest
Member, 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee

Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie Scholarship Award .................................. Clavertis Miller
Member, 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee

Call to Action .................................................................................. Lurine Allotey
Assistant Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education

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

Keynote Speaker .............................................................................. Harrison Bailey III, Ed.D. ’21
Principal, Liberty High School

Vocal Performance ............................................................................ Destiny Deshaun ’17
Performing “Moving Forward” by Israel Houghton

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

An educator for 25 years, Harrison Bailey III, Ed.D. has served in his current role as the principal at Liberty High School, the Bethlehem Area School District’s largest school with approximately 2,800 students, since 2012. Previously, he held the roles of teaching assistant, special education teacher, assistant principal and principal.

Under Dr. Bailey’s leadership, Liberty High School has become one of the leading trauma-informed high schools in Pennsylvania. He is also the co-founder of the Multicultural Student Leadership Conference, which was attended by over 200 high school students for the past 10 years. These and his many other accomplishments have created a network of support for Liberty’s students, families and staff.

Bailey was named Pennsylvania’s 2021 Secondary Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association. He earned his doctorate from ESU in May 2021. He is a frequent speaker at conferences, community events, and professional development trainings.

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

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Julianna V. Bolt Art Awards

There were 26 entries from the following high schools: Pocono Mountain East High School, Pocono Mountain West High School, and Stroudsburg High School.

First Place
Emma Strauch, Stroudsburg High School (Leah McKain, Teacher)

Second Place
Emma Zauck, Stroudsburg High School (Leah McKain, Teacher)

Third Place
Sampson Metzgar, Stroudsburg High School (Leah McKain, Teacher)

Honorable Mention
Abigale Bunje, Pocono Mountain East High School (Dawn Hallenback, Teacher)
Orion Felix, Pocono Mountain West High School (Kristin Miele-Beatty, Teacher)

Judges for the Art Contest
Wayne Bolt, husband of the late Julianna V. Bolt and member, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee
Pat Lincoln, marketing manager, Seven Mountains Media
Clavertis Miller, member, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee
Carrie E. Wetherbee, Middle Smithfield Township Planning Commission

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

2021: Art contest was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2020: Kyrah 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 Barrières, 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
The Bolt Family is a proud sponsor of the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration


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 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 $3,460 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
Ariel Tucci, interim director, Gender & Sexuality Center
Lurine Allotey, assistant director, Center for Multicultural Affairs & Inclusive Education

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

Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees!
Carley Adams

Carley Adams, a sophomore psychology major from North Wales, Pa., is a student-athlete on the women’s basketball team. She attributes her passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion to her parents, an interracial couple who raised their children in a place where differences were beautiful. She chose to attend ESU because of the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion knowing it would be an extension of her family’s values. In high school she attended a service trip to the Dominican Republic and says, “it was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.” Adams says her goal during her time at ESU is to gather the necessary skills to find a career that will allow her to advocate for the underserved.

Taylor Brielle Black

Taylor Brielle Black, an undeclared sophomore from Abington, Pa., moved around a lot as a child, and her stability came from her mother who did whatever she had to do to provide for her children, even if that meant moving from the suburbs to the city. Upon reflecting on her childhood, Black says, “I had become adaptable, flexible, and resilient. I learned important lessons that I will benefit from in the future.” Now at ESU, Black is determined to make the most of her college experience by participating in student organizations, attending events, volunteering, and keeping good grades.

Keichelle Lewis

Keichelle Lewis, a senior exercise science major from Philadelphia, Pa., is a first generation college student. She has a passion for medicine and helping others which she attributes to her grandmother, a nursing aid. “I remember as a young child going to work with her and how compassionately she cared for her patients,” Lewis recalled. She has attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Baltimore and works at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. At Jefferson she has worked in a variety departments and with several programs including the hospital call center, OBGYN, a mommy and me program that helps pregnant women with opioid addiction, and the exercise and sport medicine department. At ESU, Lewis is the head resident for operations, treasurer for the Black Student Union, and the vice president of the National Council of Negro Women. Upon graduation this May, she hopes to continue her education to become a nurse practitioner.

Tammy McNeil

Tammy McNeil, a senior psychology major from Easton, Pa., began her college journey at ESU. She was a member of the University Honors Program and involved in several student organizations. But she missed her family. She returned to the Lehigh Valley and attended Northampton Community College where she became a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was on the Dean’s List. Her father passed away shortly after she returned home. He taught her about education, leadership, and as a federal police chief, about community service. His death, along with the work her mother does in the mental health field, inspired her career path. After completing her associate degree, McNeil came back to ESU to study psychology. McNeil is a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary, PerfectKnits club, the Women of Color Initiative, the Psychology Association, and Psi Chi Honor Society. She’s a research intern at the Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education, a peer tutor, and a large classroom assistant. Through her co-curricular activities, McNeil says “ESU grew my passion for working with young adults.” McNeil plans to continue her education upon graduation this May.
East Stroudsburg University Student Award – Faith Dorsey

Faith Dorsey is a senior majoring in English with a secondary education concentration from Easton, Pa. She is a leader who fights for social justice with her intellect and actions in a way that influences others with her respect for humanity and willingness to embrace a challenge. While writing lesson plans for her future English class, Dorsey encouraged her students to explore their identity while also integrating deep and difficult concepts for young people in the public education system. She wrote her lessons in a way to fully educate the students so they can be internally and externally emancipated while staying within the alignment to the structures of her discipline.

Dorsey is a member of the College of Education Dean’s Advisory Council, a tutor in the ESU Writing Studio, a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, and a student representative on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and has served as a tutor for the Upward Bound program. She presented a paper, “Exploration of African American English,” at the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities Fall 2020 Conference, and her University Honors Program thesis is titled “The Newest Edition of Oppression: Examining the School-to-Prison Pipeline.”

East Stroudsburg University Faculty/Staff Award – Jessica Santiago, Ph.D.

Jessica Santiago, Ph.D., is an assistant professor and director of the Warrior Success Advising and Retention programs. She has committed herself to the support and advocacy of underrepresented students at ESU since 2010. She has served as a counselor in student support services, an academic success coach (assisting in coordinating the Early Start Summer Bridge Program), and advised exploratory studies students (conducting my success seminars, and supervised, trained and monitored all FYE mentors). She taught in the First Year Experience program and her current position includes identifying at risk students who face institutional and attitudinal barriers to success and assists with retention initiatives. Her dissertation title supports her passion and interest in serving these important students, “Latino Student in Higher Education: Correlations between Campus Resources, Reliable Factors and Gender.” She presents at national conferences on the topic of student success and student mentoring development.

One of her greatest impacts comes from her work with student peer mentors. She finds ESU students who themselves have a calling to be of help, who understand from personal experience the challenges of entering university-level education, but who have had success and can serve as role models to their younger peers. Dr. Santiago personally trains, develops, and closely supervises these mentors. As a result, they have turned out to be a tremendous resource for student success.

Community Member Award – Dr. Marilyn Brown

Dr. Marilyn Brown is the community outreach coordinator at the First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg, the CEO of Mrs. Dr. Marilyn M. Brown LLC, a consultation company that facilitates workshops and promotes spiritual, emotional, and academic education, and a community activist.

While living in Staten Island, N.Y., she was a member of Community Board #1 as well as Youth Services Chair for eight years and she founded Girl Scout Troop #5363 - the first troop within Staten Island to have a woman of color as a troop leader. Brown was an active participant in establishing Eagle Academy School for Young Men of S.I., the only all male public school in District 31. Raised in a single-parent household, Brown has a deep passion for children as well as single parents.

She has worked for the City of New York for the last 20 years; five as an NYPD police officer, and 15 as an appointed certified special education teacher. Currently she serves as the peer mediator facilitator/behavior specialist focusing on conflict resolutions. Brown’s educational expertise is attributed to working in Title I schools, with students with disabilities, and facilitating workshops regarding courageous conversations. She initiated and facilitated multiple groups to address concerns from families and teachers for social and emotional support during COVID-19 remote learning.

Brown earned a bachelor’s degree in child psychology from Medgar Evers College, a master’s degree in special education/childhood education, a second master’s degree in school building and school leadership from Touro College, and a doctorate in special education with an emphasis on childhood and adolescent trauma and PTSD from North Central University. She counsels adults and children who have suffered traumas due to sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

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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25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Celebration

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This year’s entries for the
Julianna V. Bolt
Art Contest
“Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.”

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, 46 Mary Gertrude Smith Boddie Scholarships have been awarded to ESU students, and a total of 67 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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