



"Focus on Human Values"

## **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL, Inc.**

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**For Immediate Release**

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January 5, 2009

### **Local Students to Receive Scholarships in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Celebration**

For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, local area high school seniors will receive \$1,000 scholarships as part of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Celebration.

Thirty-three seniors will be honored January 19, 2009, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Congregation Albert , 3800 Louisiana N.E. in Albuquerque. The theme of the celebration is "Keeping the Dream Alive." Students submitted 500-word essays on how Dr. King's message and teaching speaks to them, or how as a society, we continue to benefit from Dr. King's example and teachings. In addition, the Multicultural Council will grant the "Keep the Dream Alive Award" to one individual and one corporation who have supported the Council and the ideals of Dr. King.

Scholarship winners must attend public or private high schools in New Mexico or have obtained their GED to qualify. Other criteria include being enrolled for college or having submitted an application form with letters or reference and academic transcripts.

The scholarship winners are:

Vanessa Edwards of Del Norte High School, Alyxandria Eisele of Los Lunas High School, Malaka El of Cibola High School, Jacqueline Galindo of Los Lunas High School, Alexandria Gonzalez of the Early College Academy, April Hall of Bernalillo High School, Jessica Hernandez of La Cueva High School, Jonquilyn Hill of Sandia High School, Leslee Horn of Albuquerque High School, Cynthia Jimenez of West Mesa High School, Rayanna Johnson of Highland High School, Raina Martinez of New Futures School, David McCorkle of Sandia High School, Brandon Meyers of Del Norte High School, Whitney Mignon of Del Norte High School, Arika Mike of St. Pius X High School, Russell Page of Albuquerque High School, Rosa Reyes of West Mesa High School, Belinda Rodriguez of Bernalillo High School, Tara Roepke of Sandia High School, Nina Ruiz of Del Norte High School, Shaina Saint-Lôt of Del Norte High School, Alisha Smith of Cibola High School, Sommer Smith of East Mountain High



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School, Daniel Sonntag of Sandia High School, Macie-Joy Soria-Ballesteros of New Futures School, Jacquelyn Stringfield of Rio Rancho High School, Carlos Torres of Bernalillo High School, Carmela Trias of La Cueva High School, Maureen Vasquez of Los Lunas High School, Cameron Weaver of Rio Rancho High School, Codie White of Sierra Alternative High School, and Connie Williams of Eldorado High School

Program co-sponsors include Albuquerque Public Schools, Bernalillo County, Central New Mexico Community College, City of Rio Rancho, Congregation Albert, Congregation B'nai Israel, and SGP Construction, LLC.

Organizations and individuals donating scholarships this year include Helene Catz, Wells Fargo, Modrall Sperling Law Firm, New Mexico Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission, Clarence P. Mitchell and Marianne Mitchell Olsen Memorial, Don Chalmers Ford, Congregation Albert, SGP Construction LLC, PNM, Smith's Food and Drug Stores, Bank of America, Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Laboratories Corporation, Corley's Albuquerque Lincoln – Mercury – Volvo, City of Rio Rancho, Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc., Second Presbyterian Church, and McCune Charitable Foundation.

This year's "Keep the Dream Alive Award" was awarded to Anis Johnson and Smith's Food and Drug Stores.

Anis Johnson dedicated her life to helping others through her service as an educator, organizer, and advocate of diversity, justice, and equal rights. She stands as a wonderful example of all those who "Keep the Dream Alive", following Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of promoting love and justice in the community.

Smith's Food and Drug Stores strives for, and achieves, racial and ethnic diversity. Diversity is one of Smith's core values. Their associates at all levels reflect the diversity of the communities where they live and work. Equally as important, Smith's is committed to fostering an environment where diversity is appreciated as a source of strength and vitality. In New Mexico, Smith's is a committed partner within the community at large, striving to support community organization especially in the areas of hunger, women's health, education, and minority development. In 2007, Smith's contributed \$900,000 in cash and products for local needs.

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For more information on the scholarship program, contact Jewel Hall 505-994-2335 or Renetta Torres 505-468-1500