

# Martin Luther King Jr. Center

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

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Who We Are:

[The MLK Center](#) is a central hub for the exploration of African American heritage and culture. The overall Center is designed to foster an ethos of success that permeates the scholarly experience, the community and the world by setting a tone of change and lifelong improvement that inspires and fulfills the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Points of Pride

- The MLK Center chartered the 1st Collegiate 100-chapter organization with the partnership of the 100 Black Men of Sacramento. We had 12 MLK Scholars that were inducted and pinned to join the organization. The collegiate 100-chapter members were interviewed and background checked to do volunteer hours in the community. They spent over 100 hours mentoring the youth, organizing and leading campus events, and participating in various campus department/club events. The organization provided personal and professional development for our scholars with network opportunities with the 100 Black men of Sacramento sponsors such as Wells Fargo Bank, My Brother's Keeper, Chase Bank, Roberts Family Development Center and the Sacramento Kings. Each of our collegiate members were employed in an internship on and off campus due to their involvement in the program.
- The MLK Center had a re-grand opening of the Center to the campus and Sacramento community. We hosted our MLK Scholars, campus and community partners, and family/friends. The event was held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Harper Alumni Center. The audience participated in a three-hour program hosted by Good Day Sacramento Courtney Dempsey that included a keynote speaker from recording gospel artist Jekalyn Carr, a welcoming message from the CEO/President of the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce Azizza Davis Goines and the President of the Sacramento State University, Dr. Robert Nelson, and entertainment performances from Hundred's Unit, and Sacramento State Alumni Dewayne Ewing Jr. Our guest was given the opportunity to tour our newly renovated MLK Center throughout the day. The Center open up five new spaces for our MLK Scholars such as our Sankofa study room, Ubuntu Community room, MLK Liaison

Room, a reception desk space, and MLK Student Leader office space. We also opened up a library for our students to educate themselves on the black authors in our diaspora.

- The MLK Center has a continued partnership with the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce on a scholarship program called Young Leadership Collaborative Program (YLC). The YLC program is an entrepreneurial/ leadership development program for students between 16 to 24 years of age. The program educates our YLC scholars on best practices on becoming the future business leaders in our region. The program runs from January to May, and scholars meet every other Saturday at the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce Main office. Each session we host a community business leader to facilitate a lesson to our cohort. As part of the program, the scholars are provided a time to create a unique business plan throughout the four months in the program and on graduation day the students present their business plan to our many sponsors in the program such as Wells Fargo, Safe Credit Union, UC Davis Health, SMUD, and PG& E. To support our YLC scholars in the program, our MLK Director Dr. Marcellene Watson Derbigny establish a YLC mentoring program that allows our scholars to be mentor by the Sacramento State faculty and staff throughout the program.

## Data Outcomes

- 25% of the African American population are utilizing the center for resource advising, scholarship opportunities (Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce: Young Leadership Collaborative), MLK workshops (Sankofa Mental Wellness workshop, MLK Financial Wellness, etc.), to build peer to peer relationship with Black organizations and departments on campus, and to get academic advising support from the MLK Program Coordinator/Student academic success counselor.
- We have 12 MLK Scholars that were inducted and pinned to join our Collegiate 100 organization in 2023. They have spent over 100 hours of community service mentoring the youth, organizing and leading campus events, and participated in various campus department/club events. 100% of our collegiate members are employed in internships on and off campus since their induction into the program due to the organization collaboration.
- The MLK Center partnered up with the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce: Young Leadership Collaborative Program to recruit over 60 students to apply for the program. With the partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and their sponsors, we were able to raise over \$10,000 worth of scholarships to be given to the scholars that completed the YLC four-month program.

## Signature Programs:

- **MLK Black Joy:** The MLK Black Joy program provides our students the opportunity to build relationships and connections through a meaningful, cultural workshop that develops their personal development.
- **MLK Cultural and Consciousness Discussions:** The MLK Cultural and Consciousness provides an open discussion on community and campus issues that affect our

community and campus. The program opens up the discussion with MLK Scholars, campus and community partners, and campus staff/faculty.

- **MLK Financial Wellness:** The MLK Financial Wellness program provides financial information to our MLK Scholars on the best practices on managing money from a cultural stand point and holistic view from budgeting your scholarship, maintain credit scores and investing in your future.
- **MLK Sankofa Mental Wellness:** The MLK Sankofa Mental Wellness is partnership with the Sacramento State Student Health & Counseling Services, the MLK Center brings in trained counselors to promote mental wellness with our MLK Scholars and provide open discussion on best practices on how to deal with anxiety, self-confidence, and personal life issues. In our MLK Liaison Room, we have a counselor meet one-on-one with our students.

### Events and Activities:

- MLK Leadership Institute,
- Black Student Orientation,
- Pan African Graduation Ceremony,
- Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce: Young Leadership Collaborative Scholarship Program Ceremony

### Community Partnerships:

- 100 Black Men of Sacramento
- Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce,
- Project Optimism,
- Sacramento City Unified School District

## Fall 2021-Spring 2022

### Points of Pride

- The MLK Center establish and collaborated with different campus and community partners in various capacity to support the enrollment, retention and graduation rates at Sacramento State. We partner up with Sacramento City Unified School district and San Juan Unified School district to provide MLK Center Tours with local high schools such as Grant High School, and Rex and Margret Fortune High School. We collaborated with Sac State Admissions Department to support their outreach in Sac State 4 All campaign where we presented the MLK Center resources to Valley High School and Florin High School to support the enrollment of African American students. We collaborated with the campus departments and faculty to present the MLK Center resources to various classroom to support the retention rates. We visited over 40 different classrooms in that year.

- Provide a safe space for our MLK Scholars to build peer to peer relationship and connections through our various programming such as our Sankofa Mental Wellness program (discussion on anxiety, lack of confidence, etc.), Financial Wellness workshop (Budgeting, credit scores, and housing opportunities), Academic and professional support (Study hours quiet hours, Career center resume and cover letter support, academic tutor), and reported out to our MLK Scholars and campus community on our Melanin Monday emails in which we provided a weekly updated of the MLK events, workshops and partnership in the community.
- The MLK Center collaborated with the Afrikan Black Coalition Conference to be the campus host of their annual conference during MLK Holiday Weekend. The 2022 ABC Conference was a virtual event that served over 800 Afrikan/Black students across the State of California at Sacramento State. The forum addresses social and political issues facing the black community through peer and professional workshops, keynote speakers, and social and community activities.

## Data Outcomes

- 30% of our MLK Scholars participated in the statewide Afrikan Black Coalition Conference at Sacramento State as event coordinators, volunteers and participants of the conference held at Sacramento State to gain professional and personal support. The event served 800 Black students throughout the MLK Holiday Weekend.
- The MLK Center gain 5 campus partners such as Sac State Career Center, Carlsen Center, Financial Wellness Center, Pride Center, and Project Rebound to support the MLK Scholars in various campus resources to support their academic/personal development. The MLK Center also gain 5 community partners such as American River Community College Ashe Program, Consumes River College Umoja program, Sacramento Kids First, Sacramento Youth Forward, and Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center to promote the MLK Center to our community to help support the enrollment of Black students at Sacramento state
- 20% of the African American population are utilizing the center for resource advising, scholarship opportunities (Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce: Young Leadership Collaborative), MLK workshops (Sankofa Mental Wellness workshop, MLK Financial Wellness, etc.), to build peer to peer relationship with Black organizations and departments on campus, and to get academic advising support from the MLK Program Coordinator/Student academic success counselor.

## Signature Programs

- **MLK Sankofa Mental Wellness Workshop:** The MLK Sankofa Mental Wellness is partnership with the Sacramento State Student Health & Counseling Services, the MLK Center brings in trained counselors to promote mental wellness with our MLK Scholars and provide open discussion on best practices on how to deal with anxiety, self-

confidence, and personal life issues. In our MLK Liaison Room, we have a counselor meet one-on-one with our students.

- **MLK Book Club:** MLK Center Book Club - Each semester, a book club is held featuring a book written by an African-American author, with a theme that serves as a learning experience for students. Students are assigned chapters to read and meet on a bi-weekly basis to discuss.
- **MLK Cultural and Consciousness Discussions:** The MLK Cultural and Consciousness provides an open discussion on community and campus issues that affect our community and campus. The program opens up the discussion with MLK Scholars, campus and community partners, and campus staff/faculty.

## Events and Activities

- Affirming the Dream Week
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Discover Sac State Orientating African Diasporic Students for Instant Success at Sac State

## Community Partnerships

- Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce
- Roberts Family Development Center
- Improve Your Tomorrow
- Fortune School of Education