



News Release

Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Normandy to Receive Rance Thomas Excellence in Community Partnership Award at 2020 Dr. MLK Jr. Celebration

KMOX's Carol Daniel will speak on the theme, "Let's Build Bridges, Not Walls"

NORMANDY, MO – The Normandy Schools Collaborative will be recognized at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Tuesday, Jan. 21. This annual event is hosted by St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley and North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice.

Normandy will be honored with the 2020 Dr. Rance Thomas Excellence in Community Partnership Award for its collaboration with STLCC on the Early College programs.

“Normandy Schools Collaborative was chosen to receive the award named for Dr. Thomas because of their commitment to student success and opportunity,” said Dr. Elizabeth Gassel Perkins, campus president and chief academic officer at STLCC-Florissant Valley.

“Florissant Valley’s first early college academy graduates came from Normandy, and they have consistently sent 20 or more students each year to participate in our dual enrollment programs. They also worked with our Life Science Lab Assistant program in the summer to provide students an avenue toward certifications,” she said.

“This recognition is extremely important,” said Dr. Charles Pearson, Superintendent of Schools for Normandy. “First, we are honored to receive the award named for such an influential and vital person in our community. Secondly, the partnership with St. Louis Community College has helped so many of our students start their careers on the right track. We’re humbled and extremely grateful for the recognition.”

Carol Daniel, KMOX news anchor and the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists president, will speak on the celebration’s theme, “Let’s Build Bridges, Not Walls.”

The celebration’s reception is from 5-6 p.m. in the Terry M. Fischer Theatre, located at 3400 Pershall Road. The program follows from 6-7:30 p.m.

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During the program, the talent of North County youth will be celebrated as local students are the focus. The celebration's emcee and student speaker is Jannetta Robinson, a freshman at STLCC-Florissant Valley, and the vocalist is Alayna Epps, a senior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The winners of NCCU's Oratorical Contest will deliver their speeches, and music from the Normandy High School Jazz Band, and a local choir are also part of the evening.

In keeping with Dr. King's commitment to service, guests are asked to make a donation to the Archers' Market, a campus food pantry for STLCC students to get food and hygiene items free of charge.

The Archers' Market has an abundance of canned vegetables; donations are requested for deodorant (for men and women), drink mixes and single-serve flavor packets for water like hot chocolate and tea, feminine hygiene (tampons, pads and panty liners), hand warmers, lotion, men's razors, microwavable shelf-stable meals, nuts, protein bars and granola bars, single-serve soups, socks, sulfate-free shampoo and conditioner, trail mix and winter gloves.

This free event is open to the public. An alternate date for the celebration, should the College close due to weather, is Thursday, Jan. 23, on the same time schedule.

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CAPTION #1: Normandy Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Pearson, shown here with Dr. Elizabeth Gassel Perkins, STLCC-FV campus president, after the December taping of the Pulse of St. Louis TV program. Pearson and Perkins discussed several topics including the MLK Celebration, and the early college program.

CAPTION #2: Normandy is receiving the Dr. Rance Thomas Excellence in Community Partnership Award for its collaboration with STLCC on the early college program. Shown here are four 2019 Normandy High School graduates who received their associate's degrees and high school diplomas on the same day.