

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JAN. 18, 2021

VITERBO UNIVERSITY, LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

The Evening Celebration

WelcomeGlena Temple
President, Viterbo University

Musical Invocation Rev. Dr. Calvin Morris and Dodie Whitaker

Opening Remarks Moderator Jazzma Holland
*Assistant Director, Upward Bound
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Special Youth Leadership Recognition –
Addison Mallady, Onalaska High School.....Danya Day and John Horman

Lynda Blackmon Lowery Award – Chaya Davis,
Member of Black Student Leaders, Logan High School..... Jonah Harlan
Onalaska High School

Special Recognition Award – Dr. Calvin Morris Keonte Turner
*Community, Family, and Youth Director,
La Crosse Family YMCA*

MLK Leadership Award – Amanda Goodenough,
Director, Campus Climate, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse..... Tracy Littlejohn
*Youth Coordinator for Ho-Chunk
Nation Youth Services*

Viterbo University Choir Performance

Keynote Address 2021 Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

Moderated Questions and Answers

Closing remarksJazzma Holland

Amplify Voices Presentation

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Onalaska High School Choirs



Addison Mallady

Addison Mallady is a freshman at Onalaska High School. She is an active member of the Onalaska Students for Dialogue and Social Change Club and is a volunteer at the Kane Street Community Garden. Mallady's contributions to bring awareness of social justice to her school and community are important and commendable.



Chaya Davis

Chaya Davis was born in Madison. She is a sophomore at Logan High School and has become an instrumental youth advocate in the La Crosse area. The proud daughter of Shamawyah Curtis and Jermaine Davis Sr., she is the oldest of four

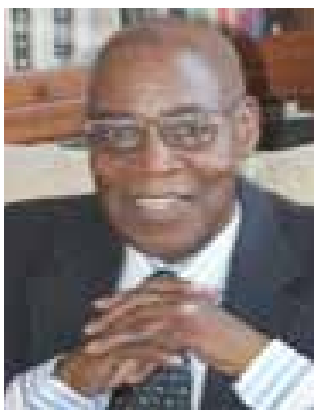
siblings helping her single mom. Davis's nominator described her as someone willing to put in the work to make positive change happen and to help educate students and adults about social justice and anti-racism. Her passion for racial equity, social justice, and youth advocacy ignited when she attended the Legacy Keeper Black History/Civil Rights Movement Trip in 2017, emphasizing education, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Davis is the founder and current president of Black Student Leaders, a student-based organization that fights for racial equality and fights against racial discrimination. The mission of Black Student Leaders is to support young

black students in the La Crosse Area. Davis has led and organized peaceful protests, successful fundraising events, and provided advice to area community members in the film, *Amplifying the Voices of Black Youth and Their Parents in the La Crosse Area*. She is one of La Crosse's youngest activists who fights for racial equity and for youth of color to feel safe.

After Davis earns her high school diploma, she wants to be a nurse and has an interest in becoming the president of the U.S. She is passionate about her school, enhancing community, and assisting in the change process to provide quality affordable health care for everyone. She plans to travel the world like her grandfather.

Established in 2018, the purpose of the Lynda Blackmon Lowery Youth Leadership Award is to recognize a ninth or tenth grade student leader who has demonstrated a commitment to building community, enhancing diversity, and working for justice. Chaya Davis is the 2021 Lynda Blackmon Lowery Award recipient who is a youth advocate, trailblazer, and social justice leader dedicated to advancing equity and racial justice at La Crosse Logan High School and in the La Crosse Area.



The Rev. Dr. Calvin S. Morris

Minister, historian, college professor, lover of the arts, and, foremost, a human rights advocate who has spent his life fighting for justice and equality with an almost unwavering optimism and faith in humanity, the Rev. Dr. Calvin S. Morris was

born March 16, 1941, in Philadelphia. Morris was awarded a partial scholarship to integrate the Friends Select High School, a private Quaker school. One of two black students in his class, Morris graduated with honors in 1959. He then went on to Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa., graduating cum laude in 1963. At Boston University, he earned an MA in history in 1964 and an SBT in theology in 1967. Morris was also ordained in the United Methodist Church.

Continued on next page

Morris was asked by the Rev. Jesse Jackson to become the associate director and national coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Operation Breadbasket, now the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. He served from 1967–1971, through the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Fred Hampton. Breadbasket attracted activists and celebrities like Fannie Lou Hamer, Bill Cosby, Julius "Cannonball" Adderly, Rosa Parks, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Mahalia Jackson, and Sammy Davis Jr.

From 1971–1973, Morris was coordinator of the African American Studies program at Simmons College, Boston. As executive director of Atlanta's Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change from 1973–1976, Morris was again associated with SCLC as he worked directly with Coretta Scott King. In 1976, he began a 16-year professional association with Howard University's School of Divinity, which included duties as director of ministries to church and society. Morris earned his PhD in American history from Boston University in 1982. He was executive vice president of academic services and academic dean at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta from 1992–1998. As executive director at Chicago's Community Renewal Society (CRS), Morris

presided over two publications, a staff of 47, and a budget of \$4.5 million. He retired in 2012.

Morris has been a board member of the Golden Apple Foundation, Chicago Chamber Musicians, Chicago Theater Company, Sojourner, and the Wieboldt Foundation. He was a co-convenor of the Justice Coalition of Greater Chicago and co-chairman of Jobs for Justice Clergy Committee. He tirelessly advocated for prison inmates and criminal justice reform.

Morris now lives near his daughter and her family in Viroqua. A warm, kind, and giving man, he continues to be an inspiration to his daughter's work as a musician and artist, accompanying her to performances of the Enduring Families Project. They led the crowd together in African American spiritual-turned-protest songs at a rally to honor George Floyd. He also continues as an activist, attending meetings of city council, anti-racism workshops, and contributing to presentations at his church and local library. He is again leading the invocation for the La Crosse Area MLK Celebration. We are grateful, and honored, to recognize him for his rich life of giving back to his community.



Amanda Goodenough

The 2021 recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award is Amanda Florence Goodenough. As the director of campus climate at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Goodenough has demonstrated visionary and transformative leadership

at UW-L as well as within the La Crosse community and beyond through her work to promote social justice around issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and other dimensions of identity. She is known for her unwavering commitment to social justice, her unparalleled compassion and humility, and her impact on individuals and communities, including K–12 personnel, school superintendents, University of Wisconsin System employees, governmental personnel, community organizers, college students, co-workers, and so many others who might be unaware they have been influenced by her actions.

Goodenough is a leader in anti-racism work and is sought after for her workshops, keynotes, and trainings

that teach cultural humility while centering the voices of marginalized populations. Goodenough founded or co-founded several significant campus initiatives which have touched the lives of people and communities locally, regionally, state-wide, and nationally. Some of those initiatives include: the annual Hate/Bias Response Symposium, which brings together over 300 attendees and speakers from the La Crosse community and across the country to address acts of hate in the community and how to respond; the Hate/Bias Response Team, where she led the university implementing a reporting system which promotes accountability for hate/bias incidents; Awareness through Performance (ATP), an award winning program offering a week-long immersive student experience focusing on raising consciousness about social justice, diversity, and climate issues; and RISE UP (Racial and Intersecting Identity Symposium for Equitable University Progress), an intensive week-long identity immersion and coalition-building professional development training to increase faculty and staff awareness of race on campus while promoting increased action in anti-racism efforts.

Continued on next page

Her recent contributions to local La Crosse initiatives include: serving as the keynote speaker for the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women; group facilitator for Creating a Healthier Multicultural Community; host and moderator for the Anti-Racism: La Crosse Area Viewpoint Roundtable; and member of the Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council Speaker Bureau. She is often called upon to speak or facilitate during significant community social justice programs and initiatives.

Above all, Goodenough is well-known for her ability to reach out to and work with people from divergent backgrounds and perspectives. Her work on social justice issues is grounded in her practice of “radical

hope”—the ability to envision possibilities beyond what is currently in front of us. As one community member who co-facilitated a session with Goodenough during the “La Crosse Waking Up White” program expressed: “Amanda puts herself on the line every day for what she believes is crucially important and pushes through exhaustion and discouragement to make good things happen for students and non-students like me.” Her ability to demonstrate vulnerability and humility while fiercely advocating for a more just and equitable world alongside students, colleagues, and community members is how Amanda Goodenough embodies the courage, compassion, and spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is the president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival; bishop with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; visiting professor

at Union Theological Seminary; pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Goldsboro, N.C., and the author of four books: *We Are Called to Be a Movement*; *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*; *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and The Rise of a New Justice Movement*; and *Forwarding Together: A Moral Message For The Nation*.

Barber is also the architect of the Moral Movement, which began with weekly Moral Monday protests at the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013 and recently relaunched again online in August 2020 under the banner of the Poor People’s Campaign. In 2018, he helped relaunch the Poor People’s Campaign, which was begun by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, starting with an historic wave of protests in state capitals and in Washington, D.C., calling for a moral agenda and a moral budget to address the five interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic poverty, the war economy and militarism, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative of Christian nationalism. There are currently 45 states coordinating committees across the country, mobilizing around the Poor People’s Jubilee Platform and We Must Do M.O.R.E. (mobilize, organize, register, and educate people for a movement that votes).

On June 20, 2020, some 2.5 million people tuned in on Facebook alone for the campaign’s Mass Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington, which originally was scheduled as an in-person event but switched to digital because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands of others watched and listened on C-SPAN and other media.

A highly sought-after speaker, Barber has presented at hundreds of national and state conferences, including the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He has spoken to a wide variety of audiences including national unions, fraternities and sororities, motorcycle organizations, drug dealer redemption conferences, women’s groups, economic policy groups, voting rights advocates, LGBTQ equality and justice groups, environmental and criminal justice groups, small organizing committees of domestic workers, fast food workers, and national gatherings of Christians, Muslims, Jews, and other people of faith.

Barber served as president of the North Carolina NAACP, the largest state conference in the south, from 2006–2017 and sits on the National NAACP board of directors. A former Mel King Fellow at MIT, he is a visiting professor of public theology and activism at Union Theological Seminary and is a senior fellow at Auburn Seminary. Barber is regularly featured in media outlets such as *MSNBC*, *CNN*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Nation*, among others. He is the 2015 recipient of the Puffin Award and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award, a 2018 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship award recipient, and he is one of the 2019 recipients of the North Carolina Award, the state’s highest civilian honor.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Words by James Weldon Johnson; Music by John Rosemond Johnson

1. Lift ev'ry 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.
2. 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 fathers sighed?
3. God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might; led 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.

Financial Sponsors

- Couleecap, Inc.
- D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council
- Gundersen Health System
- La Crosse Area MLK Celebration Fund
- Robert and Maureen Freedland Fund for Studies of the Holocaust
- School District of La Crosse
- School District of Onalaska
- Viterbo University
- Western Technical College

Synergy Partners (7 Rivers Alliance, Downtown Mainstreet Inc., Explore La Crosse, La Crosse Area Chamber, and La Crosse Area Development Corporation) supported the 2021 Lynda Blackmon Lowery Youth Leadership Award Recipient, Chaya Davis, with a \$500 scholarship.