

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

New Mexico State Capitol Rotunda

MISSION POSSIBLE II



*"BUILDING
COMMUNITY,*

*UNITING A
NATION*



*THE NON-
VIOLENT WAY"*



...Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



NAACP
Santa Fe Branch

Traditional Call of the Drum - 11:45-12:00 PM

Welcome and Invocation

Dannelle M. Kirven, MBA, Executive Director.
New Mexico Martin Luther King, Jr State Commission
and
Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III

Negro National Anthem

Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing

Proclamation

Dannelle M. Kirven, MBA
Office of the Governor

Recognition of Federal and State Officials

Dr. Simesha McEachern, President
Santa Fe Branch NAACP

Proclamation

Michael Garcia, Mayor
City of Santa Fe

Introduction of Student Essay

Dr. Simesha McEachern

Student Essay

Miss Hadley Fairbridge, Student
Mandela International Magnet School Grade 8

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dannelle M. Kirven, MBA

Keynote Address

Mr. Gene Grant, Executive Director
New Mexico Office of African American Affairs

Closing Remarks

Little V. West Esq., Chair
New Mexico Martin Luther King Jr.State Commission

Audience Sings

"We shall Overcome"

SIX PRINCIPLES OF NON-VIOLENCE

PRINCIPLE ONE:

Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.

It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.

It is aggressive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

PRINCIPLE TWO:

Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.

The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.

The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.

PRINCIPLE THREE:

Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice not people.

Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.

The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil not people.

PRINCIPLE FOUR:

Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform.

Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation.

Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.

PRINCIPLE FIVE:

Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.

Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body. Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unmotivated, unselfish and creative.

PRINCIPLE SIX:

Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice. The nonviolent

resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win,

Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice.

---Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Dannelle M. Kirven, MBA, Executive Director,
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**

Dannelle M. Kirven, MBA is a strategic, community-centered leader whose career in higher education and public service has focused on advancing equity and supporting the diverse needs of communities across New Mexico.

As Executive Director of the New Mexico Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission, Dannelle leads statewide efforts to honor Dr. King’s legacy through education, engagement, and action rooted in the principles of nonviolence, social justice, equality, and civic responsibility. Since her appointment, she has prioritized strengthening

Commission operations, enhancing fiscal transparency, expanding strategic partnerships, and ensuring programs are responsive to New Mexico’s diverse and geographically varied communities.

A proud native of Clovis, New Mexico, Dannelle brings a deep understanding of both rural and urban community dynamics. She holds a bachelor’s degree and an MBA from the University of New Mexico and credits her parents, Gary and Hollie, with instilling in her a strong sense of purpose and leadership.

Dannelle describes herself as a “community-conscious and action-oriented” leader, driven by a belief in the transformative power of informed, empowered communities. Her work continues to advance Dr. King’s vision of a more just, equitable, and united New Mexico.

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Gene Grant, Executive Director-New Mexico Office of African American Affairs

Mr. Gene Grant previously spent nearly two decades as host of “New Mexico in Focus” on the local PBS affiliate. After leaving the show in 2023, he then served as the chief program and policy officer for a nonprofit, Animal Protection New Mexico for just over two years.

Gene Grant is a veteran journalist and columnist known for his work in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has contributed to various publications, including being a columnist for the Albuquerque Tribune, Albuquerque Journal, and Weekly Alibi. Grant has also worked as a playwright and screenwriter and served as a congressional staffer. He is the father of two daughters, are graduates of the University of New Mexico. His career has been marked by his commitment to public affairs and his efforts to ensure that African American voices and stories are prominent in New Mexico's political and community discussions.

“For almost 20 years, Gene Grant has been one of New Mexico’s most trusted voices — asking tough questions, bringing people together and making sure every New Mexican has a seat at the table,” Lujan Grisham said in a statement. “He understands the power of representation, and he’s spent his career making sure African American voices and stories are front and center in our state.”