



2026 GANDHI / KING PEACE SCHOLARSHIP

Heartland Community College provides a \$200 scholarship to the student who best articulates the peaceful messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The winning essay is automatically entered into the state contest, and the state winner receives a \$750 scholarship from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. This state award has been endowed by Oakton Community College trustee Jody Wadhwa and the Oakton Educational Foundation.

GUIDELINES

All currently enrolled students at ICCTA member colleges are eligible to participate in the Gandhi / King Peace Scholarship competition. Each college may submit one entry in the statewide competition per academic year.

Participants must address the Writing Prompt described below. Each submission must be no longer than 500 words in length.

All entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- How the entrant's life and volunteer activities have been affected personally by the legacies of Gandhi and King
- Content, strength and persuasiveness of argument
- Personal goals and involvement in peacebuilding efforts on campus and in the community
- Writing style, clarity of expression, and correct grammar and punctuation

★ Failure to follow these rules will result in the disqualification of an entry ★

WRITING PROMPT

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated for nonviolence as the way to confront the hate and discrimination that so often accompanies the disrespect of other human beings. The work and words of Gandhi and King are both an example and a road map for the way forward for our country. As a community college student, outline a plan that will educate the members of your college community about the scope of the problem and the elements of and rationale for a nonviolent response. In the description of your plan, please provide specific examples of how the legacies of Gandhi and King has affected your life and volunteer activities personally as a community college student.

CONTEST DEADLINES

All entries must be received **BY 11:59 PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026**. The winner of the Gandhi / King Peace Scholarship Essay Contest will receive a \$200 cash stipend from Heartland Community College. The winning essay will be automatically entered into the state contest, and the state winner will receive a \$750 cash stipend for educational expenses during the fall 2026 semester. In addition, ICCTA will invite the winner to attend the association's June 5, 2026 awards banquet in Normal.

To submit an entry for the Gandhi / King Peace Scholarship competition, please send your essay to Cathy Gilbert, Interim Liberal Arts Coordinator, at catherine.gilbert@heartland.edu. Put "Ghandi / King Peace Scholarship Essay" in the subject line.

For more information, please contact:

Cathy Gilbert, Interim Liberal Arts Coordinator, at catherine.gilbert@heartland.edu