

Advancing BIPOC Learning and Engagement Nursing Progression Project

funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration



Celebrate the legacy and continue the work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 15, a longstanding federal holiday, we honor the towering life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who catalyzed enormous social progress in a time of profound political fracture. Dr. King was an untiring activist, ardent advocate, soaring orator and visionary leader in the Civil Rights movement. The Nobel Peace Prize winner famously advanced the cause of social justice and racial equality through education, inspiration, and non-violent protest.

But his legacy is unfinished. As Dr. King wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And injustice has outlived him. So, as much as it is a celebration of an indelible legacy, MLK Day is also a call to action, a challenge to extend and advance the work that Dr. King started, to ensure that the "arc of the moral universe... bends toward justice."

ABLE Newsletter

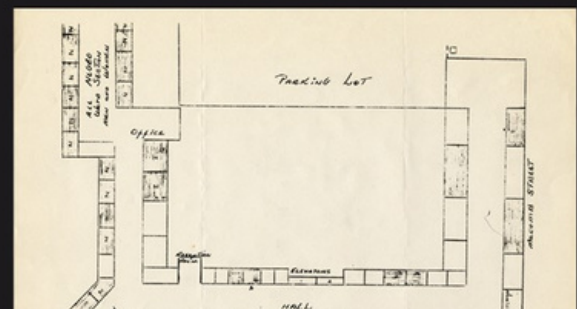
At a Glance
Celebrate MLK Jr.
Spotlight Shanell Brown
Scholarship Opportunities
Events
ABLE Staff

WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSTANT USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THIS MOST NOTORIOUS EXPRESSION OF SEGREGATION.

OF ALL THE FORMS OF INEQUALITY, INJUSTICE IN HEALTH IS THE MOST SHOCKING AND THE MOST INHUMAN BECAUSE IT OFTEN RESULTS IN PHYSICAL DEATH.

I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT ACTION AND CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE TO RAISE THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION.

Martin Luther King Jr. speaking on racial segregation of hospitals





Spotlight: Shanell Brown

Rising by Lifting Others

As a student, Brown received a variety of scholarships that funded her master's degree at UW Bothell. Now, to serve others in turn, Shades of Divinity has a scholarship program for BIPOC students pursuing careers in health care.

"Nursing school is already hard enough without having to stress about how you are going to pay for it," Brown said. "I know what it feels like to be a student and to struggle to find money to pay for simple things such as gas and groceries. I created the scholarship to hopefully alleviate some of that burden and stress for others."

The scholarship is a low-barrier opportunity, with the application asking only for proof of enrollment and a short essay of 500 words. "As a student, it can be hard applying for scholarships while trying to go to school," she said. "It can quickly become another full-time job — and that's exactly what I want to avoid." Each year, scholarships will be awarded to up to 10 students. They are funded by donations from one of Brown's partners, Mighty Mugs Coffee, a small, local, woman-owned business founded in 2010. "The donations allowed us to award our very first recipients and kick off our scholarship program," Brown said.



Shades of Divinity also provides a community space in Pierce County for BIPOC birth workers as well as pregnant and parenting people. "It can be used for a variety of different programs including doula training, lactation groups and small gatherings, without any rental or leasing fees," Brown said.

Looking to the future, Brown wants to become an even greater force in the maternal child health field.

"My mentor, Dr. Monica McLemore, interim associate dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of the UW's School of Nursing, is amazing. She has a great heart, and when she speaks, everyone listens," Brown said. "I want to be like that. I want to show folks why we need reproductive justice and more nonprofits like Shades of Divinity, not just in Washington state, but in the in the world."

Scholarship Opportunities

- **Washington State Nurses Foundation** is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year. The minimum award amount is \$1,000. Apply by February 9th, winners are notified in the spring. www.wanursesfoundation.org/scholarships
- **Uniform Advantage-GNSA Scholarship Program** Provides \$5,000 in support to students enrolled in master's and doctoral programs who are committed to making a positive impact on the nation's health and health care. Apply by January 31st. www.aacnnursing.org/foundation/scholarships
- **King County Nurses** provides 15 scholarships at \$4,000 a piece in 2024. Applicants must be attending a nursing school in King County or have a permanent address in King County (such as a parent's address.) Apply by March 1, 2024. www.kcnurses.org/scholarships/info-application

Upcoming Event



ABLE Scholars
Community Connection
Meet up

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Time to connect with your peers

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/9592944348>

ABLE Staff: Retention Specialists



Melanie Singson

In addition to completing a BA in Psychology from UW Seattle ('07) and Master in Education from UW Bothell ('16), she's worked for UW for 16 years, mostly in the Office of Admissions at UW Bothell.

She's a Husky through and through! Melanie's mom retired at the end of 2023 after 45 years as a nurse at Swedish First Hill, so she knows what it's like to have a nurse in the family and thanks you for the care and support you provide on a daily basis!



Jolie Lucero

Jolie has spent 8 years teaching and supporting teachers in the Early Childhood Education field. She then became involved with a group of Anesthesiologists for the next 10 years, offering organizational support. Jolie came to the University of Washington Bothell 3 years ago to work with the School of Nursing and Health Studies. She enjoys supporting faculty, students, and her colleagues.



Erin McFeely

Erin's professional background is in admissions, enrollment management and recruitment and marketing and advising. Erin started in the Office of Admissions at UW Bothell as a Senior Transfer Advisor for Pre-professional Pathways in 2019, completed her Master of Education at UW Bothell in 2021 and moved into a project appointment with the School of Nursing and Health Studies as Student Recruitment Manager in 2021.

Contact Us

Please reach out to ablescholars@uw.edu with questions or to meet with a Retention Specialist. We are here to help you navigate the UW, apply to scholarships, and to assist with professional development. We are excited to work with you!