

# Acting Governor Guadagno Addresses Martin Luther King Jr. Commission's Youth Conference

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## *Applauds Young People in New Jersey for Their Service*

**Trenton, NJ** – Today, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno along with New Jersey Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Chris Rodriguez addressed the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission's Youth Conference hosted by Novartis in East Hanover. The Acting Governor joined the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission in spreading its true mission of raising public awareness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ideals and philosophies.

"As the first female sheriff of Monmouth County, there were times when I was told I couldn't do the job because I was a woman, I chose to prove them wrong," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "No matter what your background is, your gender, or your skin color, you can do anything you put your mind to and accept the challenge they have put before you. Your leadership as young people in New Jersey is crucial in our State. Dr. King expressed that you do not have to have a college degree to serve, but rather to believe in yourself and take chances to pave the way for your future."

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Commission's Youth Conference marks the first time in several years the group has convened, with the purpose of stressing the great importance of exposing young people in New Jersey to Dr. King's values. The Martin Luther King Youth Conference hosted a diverse group of 200 students, in grades 9-12 assembling from Essex, Morris, and Passaic County. The conference included an executive leadership panel with representatives from an array of professional sectors, a college and career fair, and other informational opportunities designed to aid students in preparing for their futures.

"Through the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, New Jersey has long recognized the importance of developing our next generation of leaders," said New Jersey Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Chris Rodriguez. "I commend the Commission for exposing young people to law enforcement and public officials, which is essential to building resilient communities of trust here in New Jersey. Our path forward depends on the strong relationships we have built, and we will continue to embody the ideals that great leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. bestowed to us."

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