



January 14, 2022

Greetings from the Education Secretary's Desk!

I'd like to invite you to join with educators across our diverse state to honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 17. Dr. King's words and actions continue to motivate us, impact curriculum design, and inform our educator professional development sessions. His messages and actions stay with us, now more than 52 years following his death, because it speaks to our minds, hearts, and souls.

In his speech "[Birth of a Nation](#)" and in other sermons and writings, Dr. King made assertions that still hold true today:

*"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

*"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."*

*"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."*

*"The time is always right to do what is right."*

During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s, the enduring themes of love, peace, grace and reconciliation were at the core of Dr. King's powerful actions and speeches and inspired our nation to be better and do better for the sake of humanity. These messages serve as a powerful reminder in 2022 as our nation is still struggling with racial strife.

In our New Mexico schools, we strive to achieve work that reflects these enduring themes. It is our imperative to do our part and to create environments that are conducive to learning, caring and sharing for ALL students; we see it happen frequently throughout all of our schools.

It is in this spirit that I invite you to join in the [2022 National Day of Racial Healing](#), which provides an array of conversations and events that reflect the truths for which Dr. King lived and died.

With much gratitude and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kent A. Stambaugh'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.