

# 2017 MLK Spirit Award Honoree

## Sultan Ali Muhammad



Sultan Ali Muhammad is a motivational speaker, author and founder of Real Talk, Inc, a motivational program addressing the comprehensive topic of urban youth psychology. Mr. Muhammad's work in The School District of University City has resulted in a reduction gang-related activity in our schools, increased student attendance and a reduction in discipline referrals for students participating in Real Talk.

Mr. Muhammad has lived a life most people only read about. His work experience began in the streets leading to incarceration for gang-related activity. It was while he was incarcerated that Mr. Muhammad made the decision and commitment to help others. Real Talk, Inc., is an outgrowth of his passion and commitment to youth--especially the youth of University City.

Sultan Muhammad endeavors to teach youth meditation, leadership and skills in communications, human relations and entrepreneurship with the specific goal empowering students to achieve academic excellence, model behavior and perfect attendance through in-school and after-school programs. He also works with schools, churches, community centers and juvenile centers throughout Missouri and Illinois helping young men and women understand their choices and providing resources to improve their decision-making skills.

Mr. Muhammad has been featured on numerous radio and television talk shows including Majic 104.9, WGNU, KSDK and Fox 2 News, Charles Jaco Report and in print via The Riverfront Times, The St. Louis American and The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Sultan Muhammad is the recipient of numerous awards including The School District of University City's Uniquely University City Award, distinguished achievement honors from Dale Carnegie Training St. Louis and the University City Mayor's Unsung Hero Award.

Mr. Muhammad is a published author of *My Transformation from the Gang Mentality* and is working on transcribing his experiences into a powerful theatrical production.

### Real Talk, Inc, Youth Pledge

I pledge to exercise the power of...

**R**esilience to overcome the traps and pitfalls of life growing up in the 'hood.

**E**ducate myself with the proper knowledge I need to avoid falling prey to perilous street gangs. Take necessary

**A**ction I must move forward ever and backwards never. Be a responsible member of my community and qualify myself for future

**L**eadership positions awaiting me.

**T**riumph in my goal to restore unity, peace and economic prosperity in my community.

**A**mbitious in my efforts to increase the peace in my word, act, and deed.

Follow the **L**egacy of Real Talk, Inc. gang violence prevention program mentors and leaders, past, present and future.

Seek **K**nowledge from the cradle to the grave, because knowledge is power.

### Previous MLK Spirit Award Recipients

2016 - Amy Hunter

2015 - Dr. John A. Wright

2014 - Annie Mae Buchanan\*

2013 - Clarice Gladney\*

2012 - Redditt Hudson

2011 - Victor Pichon

2010 - Nicole Reed Hutcherson Adewale

2009 - Denise Lieberman

2008 - Sam Austin, Jr.

2007 - Rory Ellinger

2006 - Maggie Dagen & The Honorable Betty Thompson

2005 - Moses Head\* & Betsy Grant

2004 - Jesse Swanigan & Billie Mayo

2003 - Chris Hexter & Rev. Dr. Ronald H. Vail, Sr.

*\*awarded posthumously*