**Award Criteria: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award**

Grand Valley State University’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award will recognize the services and achievements of a business/organization that has a positive impact on West Michigan, and best portrays the spirit of King’s teachings and examples.

**AWARD CRITERIA: Nominee (business/organization) must exemplify one or more of the following:**

•Leadership in community building

•Advocacy for educational excellence

•Accomplishments in furthering economic opportunity

•Promotion of social justice

•Advancing cultural awareness

•Advancing organizational diversity and inclusion values

**CRITERIA DESCRIPTIONS:**

1. Leadership in community building: Nominees should be organizations that have made significant contributions in building a sense of unity among West Michigan citizens. Nominees have demonstrated ability in building stronger communities through various activities and programs that help to revitalize areas and make West Michigan a more inclusive place to live.

2. Advocacy for educational excellence: Applies to organizations that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in eradicating barriers that impede achieving academic excellence. The activities may include mentoring, tutoring, innovative pre-school programs, pre-college programs, scholarships, etc.

3. Accomplishments in furthering economic opportunity: This applies to organizations that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in one or more of the following areas: workforce training/development programs; upgrading skills of existing workforce; creating community partnerships; assisting minority business enterprises; and improving access to resources that help individuals or groups take advantage of employment opportunities.

4. Promotion of social justice: Nominees should be organizations that have made significant contributions toward achieving justice for individuals, groups or communities. Nominees should have demonstrated success using legal or governmental systems to reduce disparities in criminal justice, housing, health care, education, employment opportunities, and environmental conditions.

5. Advancing cultural awareness: Nominees should be organizations that demonstrate an appreciation for diversity and inclusion and possess skill in building and maintaining harmonious cross-cultural relationships. Nominees should have accomplished specific initiatives that foster King’s vision of unity among people of diverse backgrounds.

6**.** Advancing organizational diversity and inclusion values**:** This applies to organizations that demonstrate success in improving inclusion within the workplace.