The theme for Babson’s 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Day is “Political Activism in 2018.” The keynote speaker for the event is Bree Newsome. This contemporary civil rights icon first garnered national attention for her daring act of peaceful disobedience in June 2015. Following the brutal murder of nine black parishioners at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, S.C., Bree climbed the flagpole at the South Carolina statehouse and pulled down the Confederate Battle flag as a protest against racist symbolism. Her arrest galvanized public opinion and led to the permanent removal of the flag. The conversations about effective forms of protest and activism continue today.

In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and in honor of artist and activist Bree Newsome and the other heroic gestures of ordinary people on the front lines of activism, we invite all current undergraduate and graduate students to participate in a creativity contest which considers and responds to some or all of the following:

- What is the most startling, effective, or inspiring single act of civil disobedience that you have learned about?
- What is a current issue of national importance that you can address with a single act of heroism?
- In what ways has the media told the stories of Black women in America?
- Newsome’s act predated Charlottesville and many other heinous public displays of racist and white supremacist iconography in the U.S. What can be done now to stem this tide?

CONTEST RULES

Respond to some or all of these prompts with a creative work. This could include a short literary work (poetry, fiction, narrative up to 1000 words) or speech (submitted as an essay up to 1000 words); dramatic monologue / dialogue / spoken word; visual art; video; screenplay; dance; music/song.

Submit: Interested students should submit all work to Alana Anderson, Senior Assistant Director, Multicultural Programs, via email at aanderson3@babson.edu. Please submit written work as a Word document so that we may redact your name for judging. Pieces of music may be submitted as mp3 files. Videos may be submitted in various formats; please email Alana Anderson if you have questions. Kindly arrange with Alana Anderson for all other works of art to be dropped off at a mutually convenient time. Finally, any references must be cited in MLA style.

DEADLINES AND PRIZES

All submissions must be received by midnight on Friday, February 9, 2018.
The judges will award up to three prizes (reserving the right to award only two based on the quality of submissions). First prize: $500, Second prize: $250, Third prize: $150.

THE LEGACY DAY EVENT

Winners of the Creativity Contest will be publicly recognized at the 15th Annual MLK, Jr. Legacy Day Event. This event is free and open to the public. It will be held Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 5–7:00 p.m. at the Carling-Sorenson Theater, Babson College. The speaker and presentation of awards will be followed by a reception.
Winners will also have their names permanently posted on the MLK, Jr. Legacy Day wall display in Olin Hall.