

# 2025 Guthrie Chamber of Commerce MLK Jr Commemoration Program

## Remarks

**Ruth Ray Jackson, Ph.D.**

Langston University President

Good Morning!

It is an honor to be with you today as we gather to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man whose unwavering faith, courage, and vision continue to inspire us to strive for justice and equality.

Dr. King once said, *"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."*

His words remind us that while progress may be slow and at times fraught with challenges, it is our collective commitment to truth, love, and equity that ensures we keep bending that arc in the right direction.

Today, as we reflect on Dr. King's dream, we are also mindful of the realities we face in our nation. On this day, an occasion that may stir mixed emotions for many, let us remember that Dr. King taught us the power of hope and resilience. He showed us that even in the face of adversity, we must hold fast to the belief that brighter days are ahead – and that we each have a role in shaping them.

Langston University is proud to stand as a beacon of hope and opportunity, serving as a reminder that education is one of the most powerful tools for advancing justice. Together, let us honor Dr. King's legacy not just with our words, but with our actions – working hand in hand to create the beloved community he envisioned.

Thank you, and may we continue to walk forward in unity and purpose.