

Eddie McAllister

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Award

Activist and community organizer Eddie McAllister is a true pillar of justice, embodying the spirit and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in all his work. His unwavering dedication to creating a more inclusive and loving community in the face of adversity & racial injustice in his hometown of Shasta County Redding, California is truly commendable. A lover of education, Eddie has partnered with the education community, various organizations and initiatives to end divisiveness and be a driving force for positive change in Redding, California.

With a career spanning nearly four decades, Eddie has touched the lives of countless individuals, particularly youth, through his work as a community organizer, mentor, and advocate. His commitment to promoting civil rights, social justice, and education has left a lasting impact in his hometown of Shasta County. Shasta, a fairly monolithic county with 96.7% white demographic has made headlines for racial tension and violent hate crimes.

Rather than move away from the County for safe harbor, Eddie dug his feet in to create change. Whether it's setting up mentorship programs, organizing multicultural events, or advocating for marginalized groups, Eddie's efforts have helped build a more equitable and respectful society in Shasta County.

Eddie's leadership founded the Shasta Beloved Community and other organizations to exemplify his dedication to fostering solidarity, unity, respect, and equality among diverse communities. His tireless work in promoting Dr. King's principles of nonviolence has been instrumental in creating a more harmonious and understanding environment in Redding. Through events, initiatives, and outreach efforts, Eddie has consistently strived to bring people together and celebrate diversity.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Eddie's personal character shines through in his interactions with others. His humility, compassion, and genuine care for the well-being of those around him are evident in every conversation and interaction. Whether mentoring youth, advocating for social justice, or supporting local initiatives, Eddie's impact is deeply felt by all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

As a recipient of the NEA Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award, Eddie McAllister is a shining example of the positive change that one individual can bring to a community. His dedication to fostering understanding, acceptance, and unity is a testament to the enduring legacy of Dr. King's dream. In honoring Eddie with this award, we celebrate not only his achievements but also the values of justice, equality, and compassion that he embodies every day.

