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MLK'S NEPHEW DELIVERS KEYNOTE GRADUATION SPEECH FOR YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY EIGHTH-GRADERS
Isaac Newton Farris, Jr. encourages graduates to pursue true greatness

PATerson – Isaac Newton Farris, Jr., nephew of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the keynote address for the virtual graduation ceremony of the Young Men’s Leadership Academy’s eighth-graders. In his remarks, Farris – whose mother is Christine King Farris, sister of the assassinated civil rights leader – encouraged the graduating eighth-graders to pursue greatness.

“I learned what it was to be great from a great man, Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Farris in the ceremony that was shown online on Friday. “He taught me that the only thing you need to be great is the ability to do the right thing, even when no one is watching. If you always do the right thing, you will always be great.”

“I want to thank Mr. Farris for taking the time to send a message to our YMLA graduates,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer “Many of these young men aspire to become leaders. We are all grateful that Mr. Farris imparted his words of wisdom, as well as the wisdom of one of our nation’s greatest civil rights leaders, to the young men. It means a lot to them, and all of us who care about them.”

Shafer thanked YMLA Principal Marc Medley for his efforts in arranging for Farris’ message to be brought to his graduates, and she thanked Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren for supporting those efforts.

CLICK HERE to view the entire message by Farris.

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