Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series - Clemantine Wamariya

Eighth in series of nine takes place on February 28th, 2019

The Bakersfield College Distinguished Speaker Series brings community leaders from around the world to Bakersfield, whose achievements have had national and/or international significance, to speak at Bakersfield College. This series includes nine speakers, each will host their own program. The events will take place throughout the next few months.

The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After

The eighth speaker of the series, Clemantine Wamariya, will present her program on Thursday, February 28th at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. in the Levan Center. In addition, the 2:00 p.m. program will be livecasted to the Delano campus. Wamariya was born in Kigali, Rwanda, displaced by conflicts, and migrated through seven African countries during her childhood. Eventually she was granted asylum in the United States and went on to receive her BA in Comparative Literature from Yale University. She appeared as a guest on The Oprah Show four times and was reappointed to serve on the board of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by President Obama in 2016.

In 1994, she and her fifteen-year-old sister fled the Rwandan massacre and spent the next six years migrating through seven African countries, searching for safety—perpetually hungry, imprisoned and abused, enduring and escaping refugee camps, finding unexpected kindness, and witnessing inhuman cruelty.

Wamariya’s memoir is about the human side of war: what is forever destroyed, what can be repaired, the fragility, and importance of memory. She attempts to piece together the beauty and the loss of her own experiences. This presentation will encourage others to remember the stories that shapes our truth. She shares her stories of adversity and seized opportunities as a way to reframe the way her audiences think, whether it be about their own privilege or basic human rights. She strives to catalyze development personally, locally, and globally.

The Remainder of Speakers throughout the Series

The Distinguished Speak Series consists of nine speakers from around the world that will come to Bakersfield College to discuss the significance of achievements. The schedule of remaining speakers is listed on the following page.

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| Event: | BC Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series – Clemantine Wamariya - Memoir |
| Day:   | For Immediate Release: |
| Contact: | Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com |

### The Remainder of Speakers throughout the Series
Following Clemantine Wamariya, the final speaker of the series will be arriving at Bakersfield College on the following date:

- Eric Schlosser, *From Fast Food Nation to Command and Control* – Thursday, April 4, 2019

For a description of the program for the final speaker, including the time and location, please visit [https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/studentevents/dss](https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/studentevents/dss).

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*Bakersfield College offers a rigorous and supportive learning environment that fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world, while simultaneously contributing to the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of the communities it serves.*

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