Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series

Third in series of nine takes place on October 2nd

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 will include nine speakers, each will host their own program. The events will take place throughout the remainder of the year and early 2020.

The Freedom Writers Diary

The second speaker of the series, Erin Gruwell, will present her program on Wednesday, October 2nd at 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 7:00 PM in the Indoor Theatre, located on the Panorama Campus. In addition, the 1:00 PM program will be livecasted to the Delano campus. One day Gruwell intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Jewish Holocaust - only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels between these books and their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the “Freedom Writers” in homage to the civil rights activists “The Freedom Riders”. With powerful entries from the students’ own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, the Freedom Writers Diary is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

Erin Gruwell is a teacher, education activist, and the founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation. She created the Freedom Writer Methods, a progressive teaching philosophy and curricula designed to achieve excellence from all students.

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: Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series – Erin Gruwell – The Freedom Writers Diary (page 2)

Day: For Immediate Release:
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The Remainder of Speakers throughout the Series
Following Erin Gruwell, these speakers will be arriving at Bakersfield College on the following dates:

- Dr. Paula Green, Peacebuilding in Divided Communities – Wednesday, October 23, 2019
- Samuel H. Sternberg, Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution – Thursday, October 24, 2019
- Jason Beardsley, An Apotheosis of America – Thursday, November 7, 2019
- Patrisse Khan-Cullors, When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir – Thursday, February 6, 2020
- Elaine Weiss, The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote – Thursday, March 19, 2020
- Dr. Tony B. Iton, Building Healthy Communities – Thursday, April 2, 2020

For more information, please visit https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/studentevents/dss.

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