Event: Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series
Day: For Immediate Release:
Contact: Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series
Fourth in series of nine takes place on October 24th

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 2019.

The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives
The fourth speaker of the series, Dashka Slater, will present her program on Wednesday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Levan Center. Journalist, novelist, and children's book author Dashka Slater has been telling stories since she could talk. She is the author of nine books for children and adults, including The Wishing Box, an LA Times Best Book of the Year, and Escargot, winner of the Wanda Gag Read-Aloud Award. Her 2017 young-adult true crime narrative, The 57 Bus, is based on her article for The New York Times Magazine and has received numerous accolades, including the Stonewall Book Award, the California Book Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor.

The 57 Bus is an amalgam of interviews, court documents, social media posts and private exchanges, statistics, and even poetry that successfully presents its two young protagonists as complex and sympathetic. With a journalist’s eye for overlooked details, Slater does a masterful job debunking the myths of the hate-crime monster and the African-American thug, probing the line between adolescent stupidity and irredeemable depravity. No audience will traverse this exploration of gender identity, adolescent crime, and penal racism without having a few assumptions challenged.

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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The Remainder of Speakers throughout the Series
Following Dashka Slater, these speakers will be arriving at Bakersfield College on the following dates:

- Oz Sanchez, Know No Limits: The Gold Medalist in Us All – Thursday, November 8, 2018
- Carol M. Swain, Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African American in Congress – Thursday, February 7, 2019
- Temple Grandin Ph.D., Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior – Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- Eric Schlosser, From Fast Food Nation to Command and Control – Thursday, April 4, 2018

Descriptions of the programs of each speaker, including the time and location, will be released as the events approach. For more information, please visit https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/studentevents/dss.

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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