One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Community Reading Project Kicks Off

Community-wide reading and discussion project invites shared experiences

The event is free and open to the public

Bakersfield, CA—The 2017 kickoff for the One Book Project takes place on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at Renegade Crossings (outside the cafeteria/Fireside Room) on the Bakersfield College campus from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Representatives from the Kern County Library, CSUB’s First Year Experience, Kern High School District, and Bakersfield College will speak about the goals and benefits of the community-wide reading and discussion project and introduce the book, $2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer.

One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern

Inspired by similar initiatives in Seattle, Chicago, and Los Angeles, Jillian Fritch, an elementary school teacher began the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern reading project in 2001. The first book was To Kill a Mockingbird. The grassroots effort was assisted by the support of community partners in education, non-profit organizations, local government, businesses, and media outlets. The Kern County Library began leading the effort in 2003.

In 2010, the One Book Project began partnering with California State University Bakersfield’s Runner Reader Program (First-Year Experience), which includes students reading a common book. This partnership has benefited the entire community by providing additional programs such as author visits and lectures at CSUB when the reading period is complete. More than 1,400 people attended author Wes Moore’s lecture about his book, The Other Wes Moore, in November 2011.

Now in its 16th year, the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern project continues to encourage the entire community to share experiences related to a single book through discussion, educational programs, and entertainment. The goal is to unite the community, cross cultural divides, and enhance the understanding of diversity, all while supporting literacy. For more information about events related to the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Project, visit www.kerncountylibrary.org/one-book-project/.

Getting Involved

One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern is a grassroots project that depends on community partners and donations to provide copies of the book to interested participants throughout the county as well as underwrite related programming events. For more information about how to get involved, contact Andie Apple at (661) 868-0730 or andie.apple@kerncountylibrary.org.

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.

###########