Bakersfield College Introduces Distinguished Speaker Series

First in series of nine takes place on September 13th

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.

First Speaker of the Series
The first speaker of the series, Jim St. Germain, will demonstrate his program on Thursday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Edward Simonsen Indoor Theatre. Jim St. Germain has an Associate Degree in Human Services from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where he received his Masters in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy.

Born into abject poverty in Haiti, young Jim St. Germain moved to Brooklyn’s Crown Heights, where he quickly adapted to street life and began stealing, dealing drugs, and growing increasingly indifferent to despair and violence. At the age of 15, he was placed in "Boys Town," a non-secure detention facility designed for rehabilitation. Surrounded by mentors and positive male authority who enforced a system based on structure and privileges rather than intimidation and punishment. With his presentation “A Stone of Hope: A Memoir” audiences can walk away with a new lens on the argument about how young people who commit crimes are treated. His passion for public service comes from his life experiences and his sense of personal responsibility to his community, from juvenile justice to mentoring to race and politics.

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. Following Jim St. Germain, these speakers will be arriving at Bakersfield College on the following dates:

- Sonia Nazario – Tuesday, October 9, 2018
- Christina Sommers – Thursday, October 11, 2018
- Dashka Slater – Wednesday, October 24, 2018
- Oz Sanchez – Thursday, November 8, 2018
- Carol M. Swain – Thursday, February 7, 2019
- Temple Grandin Ph.D. – Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- Clemantine Wamariya – Thursday, February 28, 2019
- Eric Schlosser – 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.

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