TEDxAustinCollege

x = independently organized TED event

2020 SEEING BEYOND
October 3, 2020

Seeing Beyond

“Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.”
– Albert Einstein

Since the dawn of time, human minds have been working to cultivate our world. As new civilizations emerged and cultures evolved, innovative practices came to light and ideas worth sharing flourished. When our team selected this theme in January, we were unaware of the future pandemic and other troubles our world would have to face. Looking at the past and living in the present, the question persists: “Where do we go from here?”

We still believe that in this new decade, an endless fountain of opportunity awaits us. We journey past the known and comfortable, expanding our perceptions. We create visions for our future, shaping the way the world works.

Beyond our world, beyond our understanding, anything is possible.

TEDxAustinCollege 2020: Seeing Beyond
Welcome from the President

Welcome to TEDxAustinCollege 2020. This has been a year unlike any other—a global pandemic, civil unrest, natural disasters, economic volatility, political division, and the list goes on. Today, however, is an extraordinary opportunity for our campus and our community to come together to explore ideas and solutions.

Through conferences such as this one, the TED organization has pioneered a way to share innovative ideas from a local source to a broad audience on a global platform. We are pleased that this partnership allows a few examples of the big ideas percolating on our campus to be shared with the world. This project is a collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni—each of whom believes in the life-changing power of creativity and critical reflection. At the core of the Austin College mission is a clear aim to develop educated and thoughtful students who are ready to transform the world.

Today, I hope you will discover how the Austin College community can become a catalyst for TED’s hallmark phrase: Ideas Worth Spreading. The thoughts, perspectives, and ideas expressed today will reach beyond our campus through you and through the international TEDx.com website. Using this digital platform to amplify thought-provoking solutions to global problems offers powerful possibilities for all of us.

Thank you for celebrating the spirit of Austin College and the impact of TED with us today.

Sincerely

Steven P. O’Day, J.D.
Austin College President
What’s happening today?

8:30 A.M.  | HELLO + DOORS OPEN
Find your seat. Get comfortable. Check out the program. We will get started soon!

9:00 A.M.  | SESSION ONE
Welcome to TEDxAustinCollege 2020! Enjoy the welcome from TEDx and our first three talks.

10:30 A.M.  | BREAK TIME
Stay tuned to the livestream for some fun audience engagement! For those in the theatre, we will escort you out in sections to stretch your legs.

11:00 A.M.  | SESSION TWO
Please return to your seat and enjoy the rest of our talks.

12:00 P.M.  | EVENT CONCLUDES
Take a few moments to reflect on your time today. To continue the conversation, email TEDx@AustinCollege.edu and we will forward your comments to the speakers.
Why Concussions Have Been Great for Sports

Mack Bolen is no stranger to traumatic brain injury, having experienced a series of concussions that left her having to relearn how to walk and read. Now a student of Neuroscience, Mack will help us understand what happens to a person’s brain when they experience a brain injury. She will also tell us why she believes recent research and exposure to traumatic brain injury have been good for sports.

Mack is an Austin College senior majoring in Neuroscience. She hopes to pursue a career in Medicine and specialize in Athletic Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury.
Brittnay Connor will tell us the truth about “these kids” and “those teachers” we always hear about in the media. The truth is that students and teachers in even the most difficult circumstances are resilient, innovative, and working harder than we know. Brittnay will offer some advice on how we can meaningfully support teachers and kids in the public education system.

Brittnay is a Dallas ISD teacher and both a Fulbright and Teach For America alumna. She focuses her teaching career on making positive change for vulnerable student populations. Brittnay was recently named the 2020 Dallas ISD Elementary Service-Above-Self Teacher of the Year.
Tim Crossley believes it is fear—fear of the unknown, and fear of failure—that prevents people from achieving their dreams. For Tim, there is no greater teacher than his time on the football field. He will share some personal experiences with fear, and how he used it as a motivator instead of allowing it to hold him back.

Tim graduated Spring 2020 and is finishing his Master of Arts in Teaching degree in the Austin College Austin Teacher Program. He is also in front of the classroom this year, teaching middle school Texas History and coaching football, basketball, and track in Mesquite, Texas.
Betsy Walling Furler has pivoted her training as a speech pathologist into a career in tech, figuring out how to help make technology accessible for people with diverse abilities. She has seen time and again that the “dis” abilities people have are really the differences that help them stand above the rest. Betsy believes that our differences are our superpowers, and will challenge us to adopt that attitude when thinking about others and ourselves.

Betsy lives in Houston, Texas, and is the Founder and CEO of For All Abilities. She is an expert in employee and student accommodations and a pioneer in the use of mobile apps for individuals with disabilities.
David Whelan, Ph.D., loves contemplating the mysteries of space—mysterious even to him, a professional Astronomer and Physics Professor! In this talk, David will give some useful comparisons for how small our planet is in the context of our solar system and galaxy, and why the Sun truly is our lone star.

David is an Associate Professor of Physics at Austin College, where he uses the IDEA Center’s Adams Observatory to investigate the night sky.
Kirk Andrew Everist, Ph.D., has taught, coached, and directed theatre at the college level for almost 30 years and been part of the Austin College community since 2005. His productions range from the classical to the contemporary, drawing on performance styles, texts, and approaches from throughout theatre’s history, from Prometheus Bound to Les Miserables, including works by Ibsen, Aphra Behn, Moliere, and Shakespeare. He also coaches and directs The Austin College Improv Troupe, which conducts ongoing research into the history and practice of improvisation for the theatre.

This is Kirk’s second year as emcee for TEDxAustinCollege, and we are grateful for his expertise and good humor!
Many of you have experienced TED talks online. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics—from science to business to global issues—and has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The annual TED Conferences invite the world’s leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes or less. Many of these talks are then made available for free at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Jane Goodall, Sarah Silverman, Mark Ronson, Stephen Hawking, Temple Grandin, and Adam J. Foss (who is the recipient of the 2020-2021 Austin College Posey Leadership Award!).

TED talks don’t exist without TED conferences. TEDx programs were created to support individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized, TED-style events around the world.
What is TEDx?

x = Independently Organized TED Event

In the spirit of Ideas Worth Spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, live speakers from that location combine with TED video screenings to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x represents an independently organized TED event.

Today marks our fifth annual TEDxAustinCollege conference. This project was initiated by several students in the Austin College chapter of the national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and is still produced by a team of students. Our speakers are locally sourced as well, including Austin College students, faculty, and alumni.

This year’s TEDxAustinCollege organizers are pleased to bring together remarkable people and innovative concepts to spark conversation. For the first time ever, this year TED has opened up TEDx conferences to remote participation, and we are happy to welcome all of you who are joining us virtually. Whether you are with us in the theatre or with us on the livestream, you will experience live speakers and interactive programming. The videos we produce today will be added to TEDx.com to contribute to the global conversation. But only YOU can say you were present for the live event!
WORD SEARCH

TEDx       MackBolen       BrainInjury
AustinCollege BrittnayConnor Differences
TwentyTwenty TimCrossley Education
SeeingBeyond BetsyFurler Fear
Aramark     DavidWhelan   Space
Cadence     SharingIdeas Students
InPerson    KirkEverist   Teachers
Virtual     Resilience   Universe

Thank you to our Business Partners
Aramark and Cadence Studios
FOUNDING PARTNERS

Melida and Tom Ailshire
Anonymous
Lee and Bob Ardell
Kathy Pearce Aubrey
Mark Auten
Dan and Lynn Bernstein
Matt and Shannon Brown
Tom Buttine
Susie and Reggie Coon
Don and Nan Davis
Allison and Greg Dawson
Dr. Larry Driver
Jordan and Martinella Dryburgh
The Dudasko Family
Kaitlin Elledge
Stephanie Allaire Flores
Toria Flores
Viki Reeder and Roger Gregory-Allen
Larry and Marjorie Hass
Cynthia Heyn
Dr. Cathleen Hoffman and Dr. Kevin Hoffman
Timothy D. House
Kirsten Brandt James
Jazmin E. Kelly
Timothy J. Lunkley
Bill and Liz Luthans
Jeff Mabray
Micah Mahaney
Melanie Martin
Katherine Masucci
Ryan Pierce and Victoria McDonald-Pierce
Andrew C. McMillan

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Clint Buck
Amanda Coleman
Sarah Gunderson

Debra Hawthorne
Nancy L. Jackson
Pranav Sheth
OUR TEAM

THE VITAL
EXECUTIVE TEAM
Colin Ashlock ’21
Beau Beshires ’23
Grant Garrison ’22
Lily Harris ’22
Darian Johannsen ’23
Jade Kemp ’22
Sanjana Rasamsetti ’21
Ti’Anna Smith ’22
Claudia Theriot ’22

THE INDISPENSABLE
Phung Banh ’21
Victoria Gilbert ’21
Marissa Graf ’22
Nye Howard ’22
Jacob Moreno ’22
Odalys Sarabia ’21

THE ESSENTIAL
Ayaz Ali
Joseph Allison ’01
Kirk Everist, Ph.D.
Melanie Fountaine
Nick Hummert
Sharon Jackson
Vickie Kirby
Christopher Maniet
Dan Pucul ’04
Leigh-Ellen Romm
Heidi Rushing ’04
David Tarvin
Cary Wacker
Lynn Womble, Ph.D.

THE CRUCIAL
SPEAKER CURATION COMMITTEE
Colin Ashlock ’21
Holly Humphries ’20
Phung Banh ’21
Darian Johannsen ’23
Beau Beshires ’23
Justice Mercadel ’21
Kaylah Grear ’23
Cece O’Day
Lily Harris ’22
Ethan Starr ’21
Julie Hempel, Ph.D.
Hunter Williams ’21
Nye Howard ’22
John Williams, Ph.D. ’84
Seth Howard ’20
Lynn Womble, Ph.D.