



TEDxAustinCollege 2020–Seeing Beyond

This year has brought a lot of challenges and surprises, and what does that mean for TEDxAustinCollege in the times of COVID? It means that great ideas are worth sharing now more than ever.

The theme, “Seeing Beyond” was selected in January, and was inspired by the idea of 20/20 vision and the Albert Einstein quote, “Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.” At this point in the year, everyone is thinking differently about seeing beyond 2020, but the central question is as relevant as ever: Where do we go from here? The 2020 TEDxAustinCollege speakers will cover topics from what’s inside your skull to what’s outside our solar system. Join us (virtually!) on Saturday, October 3, for some new perspectives, some inspiration, and some ideas worth sharing.

A limited number of students, faculty, and staff who are already on campus this semester will be permitted to attend in-person with physical distancing in the theatre. The good news is that for the first time ever, the TED organization is permitting TEDx events to be broadcast live, which means everyone can attend the event virtually from wherever they are!

TEDxAustinCollege 2020 | Saturday, October 3

9 a.m. to Noon

In person at Ida Green Communication Center, Sally and Jim Nation Theatre

Tickets are FREE. Registration required for in-person or livestream viewing.

www.austincollege.edu/tedx

Limited, in-person seating reserved for students, faculty, and staff who are on campus this semester.
Livestream for everyone else!



Mack Bolen '21

Why Concussions Have Been Great for Sports

A new take on concussions and the impact they have had on contact 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 has been good for sports.

Mack is majoring in Neuroscience. She hopes to pursue a career in medicine and specialize in Athletic Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury.

Brittnay Connor '14

The Truth About 'These Kids' and 'Those Teachers'

Brittnay Connor will tell us the truth about “these kids” and “those teachers” we are always hearing about in the media. The truth is that kids 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 schools and students on the brink.

Tim Crossley '20

Get Your Head in the Game: Let Fear Be Your Fuel

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 letting it be something that held him back.

Tim graduated this spring and is currently finishing up his Master of Art in Teaching degree in the Austin College's 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 Furler '89

Our Differences Are Our Superpowers: Thinking Beyond the “Dis” in Disability

Betsy 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.

Our Lone Star: Understanding the Vastness of Space

Dr. David Whelan loves contemplating the mysteries of space—mysterious even to him, a professional astronomer and physics professor! In this talk, David will give us 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.

New Faculty Join in Unprecedented Year

Several new faces were among the Austin College faculty as classes began August 25. They have arrived in a year like no other as all classes are offered in-person and synchronously remote.

[Read More...](#)



North Texas Giving Day 2020

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 17, when Austin College will participate in North Texas Giving Day, a one-day online giving extravaganza. Austin College continues its mission, even in these challenging times, to meet students' increasing financial needs and ensure that faculty and staff are equipped to deliver a quality education. Please visit NorthTexasGivingDay.org/AustinCollege to schedule your gift today.



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