



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEDxBuffalo Announces Speakers For 2015 Event

(JUNE 22, 2015 – Buffalo, N.Y.) The TEDxBuffalo team is pleased to announce the speaker lineup for its 2015 event, to be held on Thursday, October 22 at Asbury Hall at Babeville, on Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo. The theme for this year's event is "**illuminate**," a nod to the event's new format – in the evening – and the organizing committee's continued commitment to shine a light on Western New York's brightest minds and ideas.

"The community's response to this year's call for pitches was greater than ever before," said Adrienne Bermingham, TEDxBuffalo director. "It was thrilling to have so many impressive speakers to choose from. After careful deliberation, we are incredibly confident in this year's presenters and we are very excited to have each of them bring their idea to the stage."

TEDxBuffalo 2015's speakers are:

- **Dr. Christopher W. Kerr**, Chief Medical Officer at The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care.
- **Danielle Twum**, a 3rd year pre-doctoral candidate at Roswell Park Cancer Institute studying cancer immunology.
- **Kaitlin Garrity**, a senior at Canisius College studying communications.
- **Kara M. Oliver**, Program Specialist at the National Federation of Just Communities of Western New York.
- **Rebecca Sophia Strong**, a social artist, movement educator, and Founding Director of The Embodied Cosmology Project.
- **Rhonda Frederick**, MPA, the President and Chief Executive Officer of People Inc.

"It becomes clear from the caliber of speakers each year that our event continues to grow and have an impact on our community," Bermingham said. "This year, we're planning to engage audience members in a more meaningful way."

Applications to attend TEDxBuffalo 2015 are open now through August 14. To apply, please visit TEDxBuffalo.com/attend2015.

More information about this year's speakers, including their complete bios, is available at TEDxBuffalo.com/2015speakers.

About TEDxBuffalo: TEDxBuffalo is an independently licensed TEDx event that follows the guidelines put in place by the TED conference 20 years ago. Using TED's unique 18-minute time limit, we are able to provide the audience with a day's worth of talks on a variety of topics that are sure to inspire and educate. TEDxBuffalo strives to bring fresh faces with breathtaking ideas and projects to the stage in front of over 300 people in attendance and countless more watching live online.

About TEDx, x = independently organized 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, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

About TED: TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California almost 30 years ago, TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes on a diverse mix of topics. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The TED2016 Conference will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia in February.

TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed; and TEDBooks, short e-books on powerful ideas. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world get help translating their wishes into action; TEDx, which supports individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the TED Fellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

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