

# COMMUNITY WATCH



*Speaking to the World*

APBSPEAKERS.COM  
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Speakers on  
Education, Family  
& Societal Issues



- 3 EDUCATION LEADERS
- 7 COMMUNITY & CULTURE
- 10 DISTINGUISHED VOICES
- 12 INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

# Welcome to CommunityWatch

CommunityWatch showcases speakers for K-12 educators and school-based audiences, including educational organizations and parent and community groups.

Drawing from our extensive roster of renowned education thought leaders, best-selling authors, crowd-drawing celebrities and more, our experienced agents (who are also former educators) will match you with the perfect speaker for your goals and audience.

Concerned about going virtual? In the age of COVID-19, you can also trust us to help you create an outstanding virtual event. And, as conditions open up, we will work with you on in-person or hybrid programs.

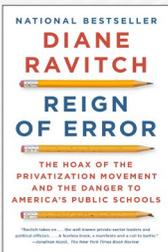
Here's to making your event unforgettable!

***We look forward to working with you!***



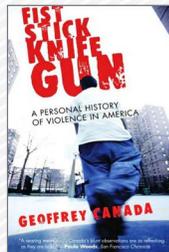
**Diane Ravitch**  
Former Assistant Secretary  
of Education

The nation's leading champion for public education with more than 36 million blog hits, historian of education Ravitch writes on the danger of privatizing public schools.



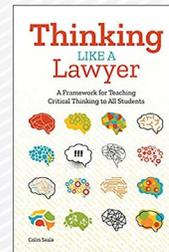
**Geoffrey Canada**  
Founder of the Harlem  
Children's Zone

Child and community advocate Canada speaks passionately about addressing the needs of at-risk children, families, and communities and eliminating education inequities.



**Colin Seale**  
Critical Thinking Evangelist &  
Founder/CEO of thinkLaw

A challenging upbringing in Brooklyn, NY gave birth to Seale's passion for educational equity after he was tracked early into gifted programs and afforded opportunities his neighborhood peers were not.



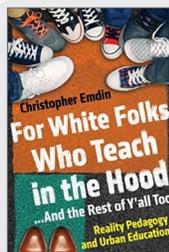
**Michael Sorrell**  
Transformative College President  
& Higher Ed Innovator

Ranked by *Fortune* as one of the world's greatest leaders, Sorrell's "urban work college model" transformed a struggling Paul Quinn College into one of the most innovative colleges in the U.S.



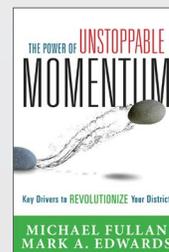
**Christopher Emdin**  
Professor of Science, Columbia U

Celebrating the magic of teaching, urban education reform expert reminds us that students enter the classroom from different walks of life—and shares creative ways to engage all youth.



**Michael Fullan**  
Innovator & Leader in  
Teacher Education

The former Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, Fullan is an expert on education reform. He advises lawmakers with the moral goal of universal education.





**John B. King**  
President Obama's Secretary of Education

An inspiring leader whose life was transformed by the power of education, King has witnessed teaching and learning at all levels. He offers a big picture look at education and opportunity.



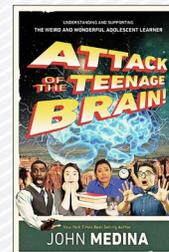
**Yong Zhao**  
Globalization & Education Expert

Exploring education in our global age, Zhao focuses on integrating best practices from Eastern and Western education systems and encourages us to think of students as entrepreneurs.



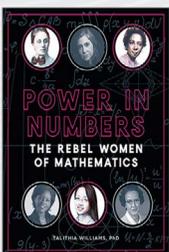
**John Medina**  
Author, Brain Rules

A developmental molecular biologist, Medina turns brain research and how the brain interprets information into captivating talks and effective education strategies for children and teens.



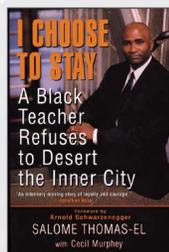
**Talithia Williams**  
STEAM Education Advocate

A professor, mathematician and statistician with a TED talk viewed almost 2 million times, Williams reveals the role of data in our everyday lives and inspires kids to embrace STEAM.



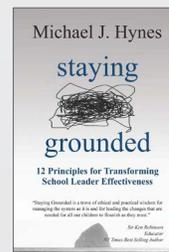
**Salome Thomas-EL**  
Inspirational Principal

"Every child needs someone to be crazy about them." These are the words of Thomas-EL, nationally recognized educator. They shape his lifelong commitment to answering the question, "How do we ensure that every child achieves their greatest potential?"



**Michael Hynes**  
Superintendent & K-12 Thought Leader

Emphasizing the importance of play and recess in schools and yoga and mindfulness in the classroom, Hynes champions taking a holistic approach to educating children around the world.

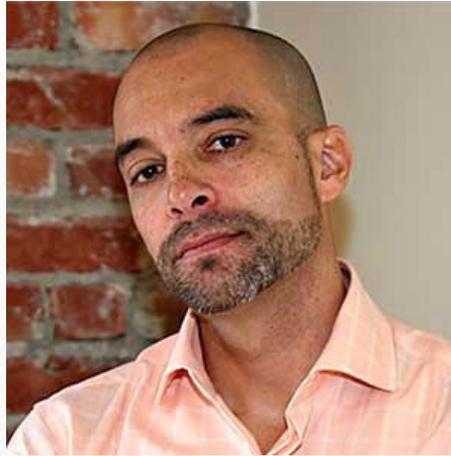




## Justin Shaifer

LinkedIn Top Voice In Technology,  
Science Show Host &  
STEAM Educator

A rising star in education and advocacy, Shaifer is a popular and inspiring science communicator creating breakthrough programs to engage underserved youth in STEAM.



## Jeff Duncan-Andrade

Co-Founder of the Teaching  
Excellence Network

A veteran classroom teacher in East Oakland, CA, Duncan-Andrade and



his pedagogy have been widely studied and acclaimed for producing uncommon levels of social and academic success.



## Alberto M. Carvalho

Superintendent of Miami-Dade  
County Schools

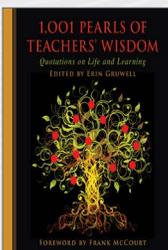
An expert on education transformation, Carvalho is credited with successfully turning his district around and elevating it to one of the nation's highest-performing urban school systems.



## Erin Gruwell

Teacher, Catalyst & Author

*Freedom Writers* author Gruwell teaches educators how to incorporate the lessons she gleaned in her classroom, using journals and the power of storytelling to enhance learning.



## Donna Porter & DJ Batiste

Inspirational Teacher-Student Duo

From gang member to head of the class, the course of DJ Batiste's life was literally changed by award-winning educator Porter. They share tips and tools for reaching all students.



## William Deresiewicz

Professor & Award-Winning Essayist

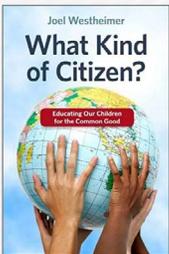
Deresiewicz shares groundbreaking insights into the power of a liberal arts education and the role that schools play in shaping our future.





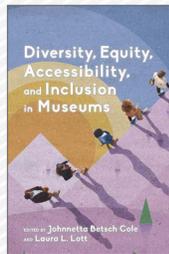
**Joel Westheimer**  
Education Columnist for CBC Radio, Author & Research Chair

Westheimer researches the role of schools in democratic societies, and studies global school reform, the standards and accountability onslaught, and the politics of education and education research.



**Johnnetta Cole**  
President Emerita of Spelman & Bennett Colleges

Drawing from her experiences as an educator and humanitarian, Cole lends a unique perspective on critical issues such as race, gender and other forms of inequality.



**Jawanza Kunjufu**  
Author & Urban School District Consultant

Kunjufu offers a compelling examination of the many unique academic challenges that face black males. His work has been featured in *Ebony* and *Essence*, and is used in online courses nationwide.



**Dr. Rich Milner**  
Professor of Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Vanderbilt University

Centering equity and diversity, Dr. Milner examines how the ways in which teachers talk, particularly about race, influences student learning, identity,



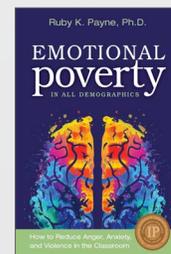
**Dr. Ron Whitaker**  
Freedom Fighter, Critical Scholar & Equity Strategist

Known as an Equity and Anti-Racist Freedom Fighter, Dr. Whitaker is Director of the Center for Urban Education, Equity, and Improvement at Cabrini University. He focuses on the psychology of race and racism, issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and more.



**Ruby Payne**  
Founder, aha! Process

Internationally known for her book and workshop, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, Payne helps students and adults of all economic backgrounds achieve success.





## Rosalind Wiseman

Teacher, Author & Youth Culture Expert

A pioneer in understanding today's youth, Wiseman fosters civil



dialogue and inspires communities and schools to build strength, courage, purpose and cultures of dignity.



## Eric Liu

CEO, Citizen University & Civic Evangelist

One of the most sought-after speakers on citizen power, civic



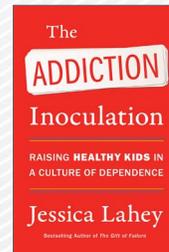
health, the future of democracy and American identity, Liu celebrates shared values and challenges us to live up to them.



## Jessica Lahey

Educator & Author

Lahey inspires with her rallying cry to allow children to experience failure as an integral part of developing



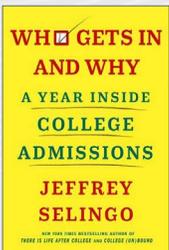
resiliency. She shares strategies to reframe setbacks as steps toward success.



## Jeffrey Selingo

Higher Education Thought Leader

Best-selling author and *Washington Post* columnist Selingo shares insights into getting the most out



of your education experience to be better prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.



## Devorah Heitner

Founder, Raising Digital Natives

Heitner teaches schools how to cultivate a culture of responsible digital citizenship and gives parents



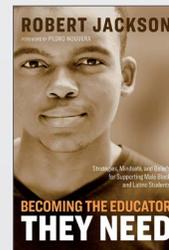
invaluable advice on helping their kids thrive in a complex digital world.



## Robert Jackson

Teacher, Education Consultant & Author

Never letting students' circumstances define their futures, Jackson's



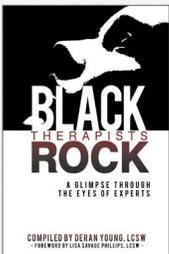
"No More Excuses" teaching approach has turned low performing students into successful professionals.



## Nicole Thompson

**Educator, Author & Humanitarian  
Committed to Serving Urban Youth**

The creator of Reverse the Adverse, a trauma-informed care training for



educators, Thompson helps raise awareness of the impact that adverse childhood experiences have on urban students.



## Kate Gerson

**Public Intellectual &  
Best-Selling Author**

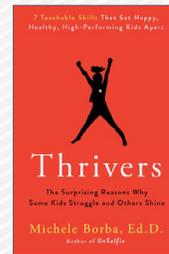
A powerful advocate for equity in American schools, Gerson is known for her ability to translate data into comprehensible truths, as she presents a model for the kind of granular, detailed thinking needed for instructional change.



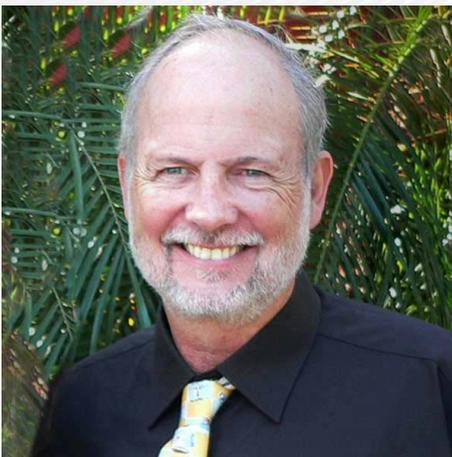
## Michele Borba

**Teacher & Educational  
Psychologist**

Citing research that today's selfie-obsessed teens are 40% less



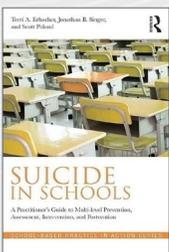
empathetic, Borba presents a new framework for activating empathy for success in school and life.



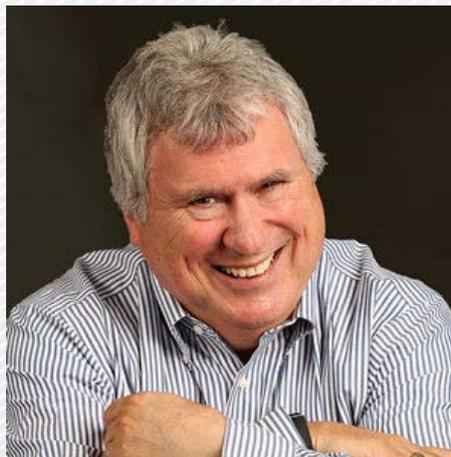
## Scott Poland

**Expert on School Crisis,  
Suicide & Bullying**

An internationally recognized pioneer in school suicide prevention, Poland



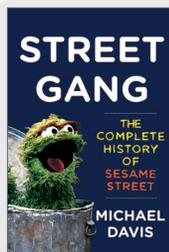
helps schools develop and implement effective assessment and intervention strategies.



## Michael A. Davis

**NYT Best-Selling Author,  
Producer & Educator**

In Davis' acclaimed book *Street Gang* (and documentary of the same



name), he offers a compelling look into the history of *Sesame Street* and what it took to bring the iconic characters and show to life.



## Kevin Powell

**Writer, Activist &  
President of BK Nation**

Raised by a single mother in horrific poverty, Powell went on to become



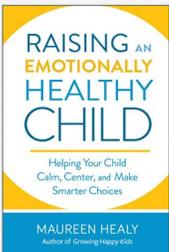
the author of over a dozen books and one of the most celebrated political, cultural, and literary voices in America today.



## Maureen Healy

**Educator & Best-Selling Author**

A leader in her field, Healy draws from her extensive teaching and counseling background to give



adults the ideas they need to nurture positive emotional health and resilience in today's children.



## Malcolm Mitchell

**Former NFL Player & Children's Book Author**

A former wide receiver for the New England Patriots and active



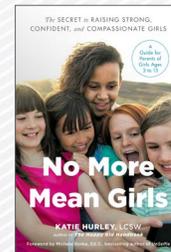
community volunteer, Mitchell is known for visiting elementary schools to read to students and talk about literacy.



## Katie Hurley

**Psychotherapist & Parenting Expert**

The Founder of "Girls Can!" empowerment groups, Hurley explores everything



from relational aggression and cyberbullying to how students can tap into empathy to affect meaningful change.



## Dr. Nii Addy

**Neuroscientist, Mental Health Advocate, Yale Professor & Podcast Host, Addy Hour**

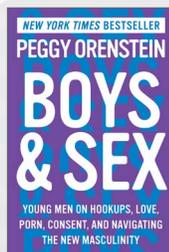
Dr. Addy's familiarity with effective psychological interventions and his perspective as a black scientist in the midst of ongoing racial injustice makes him a sought after speaker on topics such as neuroscience, mental health, faith, and diversity, equity and inclusion.



## Peggy Orenstein

**NYT Best-Selling Author**

Orenstein is an internationally-acclaimed expert on the challenges facing teens, college students—and



their parents—as they come of age in today's culture.



## Mike Veny

**Mental Health & Wellness Facilitator**

Veny shares his story about living with mental health problems while offering tips and tools on how to

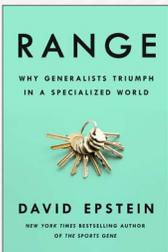


how to transform the stigma in our schools and communities. He is known for his impactful drumming workshops.



**David Epstein**  
#1 *NYT* Best-Selling Author

Epstein shares how learners and educators can thrive in an increasingly complex world—not



by picking a single specialty and mastering it—but by sampling many areas to develop range.



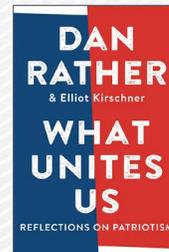
**Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr.**  
*New York Times* Best-Selling Author & Chair of African American Studies, Princeton

A prominent scholar, political commentator, public intellectual and passionate educator, Dr. Glaude examines the complex dynamics of the American experience.



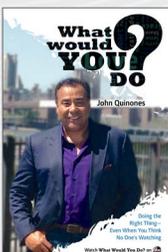
**Dan Rather**  
Legendary Broadcaster

Bringing six decades of chronicling our world, Rather is more relevant than ever as a best-selling author, active voice on social media and patriotic advocate for uniting in divisive times.



**John Quiñones**  
Host, *What Would You Do?*

An Emmy winner and ABC's first Latino anchor, Quiñones grew up as the child of migrant farm workers.

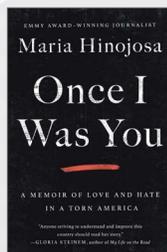


His inspiring story is the embodiment of the transformative power of education.



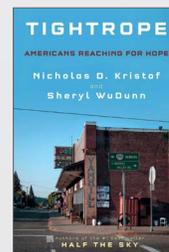
**Maria Hinojosa**  
Emmy-Winning Journalist

Anchor and executive producer of NPR's "Latino USA," and a panelist on *Meet the Press*, Hinojosa examines the critical issues that are changing our cultural and political landscape.



**Nick Kristof**  
Pulitzer Prize-Winning *NYT* Columnist

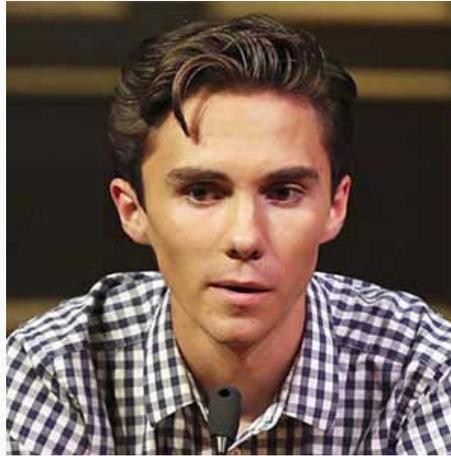
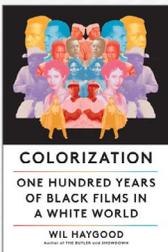
Advocating for human rights and giving a voice to the voiceless, Kristof shares compelling stories from close to home and around the world to illuminate the most critical issues of our time.





**Wil Haygood**  
 Acclaimed Biographer,  
 Author of *The Butler*

Best-selling author and cultural historian Haygood tells the story of America through the lens of history, politics, sports, race, and the lives of change-making African-Americans.



**David Hogg**  
 Co-Founder, March For Our Lives

Thrust into the world of activism by the largest school shooting in American history, Parkland survivor



Hogg has become one of the most compelling voices of his generation.



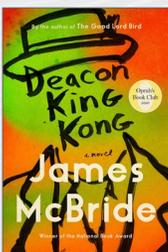
**Catherine Rampell**  
 Washington Post Columnist

One of the youngest nationally syndicated columnists, Rampell takes a straight-on, data-driven approach to the most intriguing areas of economics, public policy, politics, and culture.



**James McBride**  
 NYT Best-Selling Author  
 & Musician

McBride uses music and writing to share powerful stories such as his landmark memoir *The Color of Water*, *The Good Lord Bird* and his latest best-seller, *Deacon King Kong*.



**Michael Eric Dyson**  
 Public Intellectual &  
 Best-Selling Author

Featured on NPR and MSNBC, two-time NAACP Image Award winner Dyson melds scholarly insight with contemporary culture as he examines the critical issues of the day.



**Richard Buery**  
 CEO of Robin Hood & Former CEO  
 of Achievement First

Buery is the CEO of Robin Hood, one of the largest anti-poverty forces in the nation. Also the former CEO of Achievement First, a network of public charter schools, he helped provide an excellent education to 15,000 students across New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island.



## Wes Moore

**NYT Best-Selling Author & CEO, The Robin Hood Foundation**

Moore energizes audiences with his remarkable personal story of



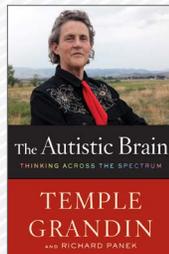
overcoming adversity through education, embracing personal responsibility and emerging as an inspirational leader.



## Temple Grandin

**Autism Advocate**

The world's most accomplished adult with autism, Grandin was portrayed by Claire Danes in the



film, *Temple Grandin*. She reminds us that all children can be taught to achieve their potential.



## Steve Pemberton

**Inspirational Child Advocate & Best-Selling Author**

Pemberton's triumphant life story is about defying insurmountable



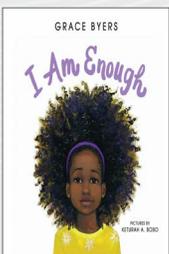
beginnings through the power of education—going from an orphan in foster care to college and the C-suite.



## Grace Byers

**Author & Actress on Hit TV Show, *Empire***

Raised by two deaf parents, Byers lends insights into challenging



social and cultural experiences, encouraging all of us to have compassion and grace for each other.



## Christopher Gray

**Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Scholly**

Raised in poverty and determined to help others go to college, Gray sparked the biggest fight in *Shark Tank* history with Scholly, his breakthrough app that helps students find scholarships.



## Sonia Manzano

**"Maria" on *Sesame Street***

A first-generation American of Latin descent, Manzano's tale is one of perseverance and courage as she

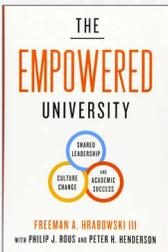


overcame obstacles to become one of the most influential Latinas in television.



**Freeman Hrabowski**  
President of The University Of Maryland, Baltimore

An award-winning educator whose passion has transformed his campus,



Hrabowski partners with businesses and the community to foster skills and ensure that graduates are employable.



**Stacey Bess**  
Inspirational Educator & Author

Subject of the movie *Beyond the Blackboard*, Bess shares heartfelt stories about her years teaching



children in a homeless shelter, and offers powerful insights and tools for youth educators and advocates.



**Ernie Hudson**  
Actor & Activist

Rising out of poverty to appear in *Ghostbusters*, *Oz* and *Law and Order*, Hudson shares a moving life story filled with lessons on fatherhood, overcoming adversity, and following dreams.



**Cheryl Brown-Henderson**  
Educator & Civil Rights Activist

The “Brown” in the landmark *Brown vs. The Board of Education* case, she has devoted her inspiring life to ensuring that a child’s educational future isn’t predetermined by their zip code.



**Dr. Sampson Davis**  
Physician & Inspirational Leader

Growing up surrounded by crime, drugs and poverty, Davis embraced the power of education to emerge as a successful doctor.

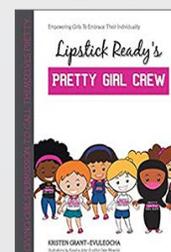


His empowering story challenges us to be the best we can be.



**Kristen Geez**  
Youth Practitioner & Gen Z Expert

Dedicated to building confidence and setting high standards for young people and the adults that

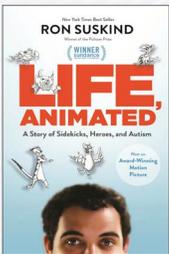


work with them, Geez has inspired thousands to pursue their personal and professional goals.



**Ron Suskind**  
Pulitzer Prize Winner & Education Advocate

As told in the Oscar-nominated film, *Life Animated*, Suskind shares his son's moving journey with autism and how he emerged from the silence of the spectrum to become a thriving young adult.



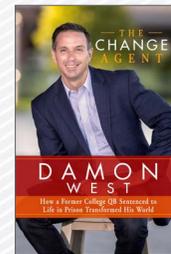
**Heather Abbott**  
Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor

Abbott's life changed forever when she was struck by bomb shrapnel and lost her left leg. She captivates audiences with her compelling story of optimism, resilience and helping others.



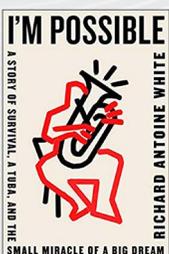
**Damon West**  
Addiction, Recovery & Behavioral Health Advocate

A former NCAA quarterback sentenced to life in prison, West shares his story of abuse, addiction and recovery. His "coffee bean" analogy inspires us all that we can reach full potential by adjusting perspective.



**Richard White**  
Inspirational Leader, Professor & Principal Tubist

White overcame a challenging childhood marked by intermittent homelessness to become a tubist performing on the world stages. He shares an incredible story of resilience and determination.



**Mickey Rowe**  
Founder & Artistic Director of National Disability Theatre

Lauded for his roles in Tony Award-winning plays, Rowe is the first actor with autism to play an autistic character in a professional performance. He celebrates differences as strengths.



**Caylin Moore**  
Author, Rhodes Scholar & Aspiring Professor

Moore's against-all-odds journey from the cruel poverty of gang-ridden Los Angeles to becoming a Rhodes Scholar celebrates the pursuit of dreams and the transformative power of education.

