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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEDxMSJC Announces 2021 Theme and Speaker Presenters**

*Mt. San Jacinto College Releases Speakers and Addresses Theme of Resilience*

(San Jacinto, CA – May 12, 2021) – Mt. San Jacinto College is set to host its annual TEDxMSJC event organized by students, faculty and staff on Friday, October 8, online via YouTube. MSJC’s TEDx program will feature seven speakers of varying backgrounds for this year’s event: *Resilience*. The theme aims to highlight ideas and initiatives that aid the community in persevering during challenging times.

"January of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency, and on March 19, California began their statewide stay-at-home order. Over a year later, as the stay-at-home order began to lift and people slowly stepped back into the world, we heard about how they got through the COVID pandemic." Said Bianca Swan Finch, Chair of the Department of Theatre for Mt. San Jacinto College, who is a lead organizer of the event. "Therefore, we have focused this year's theme on these stories within our community. Through the trials of 2020, our community truly showed remarkable resilience."

Speakers include the following:

- **Dr. Katherine Kiefer-Newman**, San Bernardino Valley College Faculty
- **Julie Falen**, KCAA Radio Host - *Julie Talks Money*
- **Stephanie Otero**, CPA, President and CEO of Feeding America Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
- **Angelica M. Anderson**, Honors Enrichment Program Administrative Associate
- **Dr. Lillian Yvette Melendrez**, Idyllwild Arts Academy
- **Von Lawson**, Mt. San Jacinto College Dean of Career Education
- **Brandon Christopher Allen**, Motivational Speaker - *When Thunder Speaks*

Learn more about the [TEDx event and speakers online](#).

For more information, please contact Communication Studies and Forensics Associate Professor Ron Newman at rnewman@msjc.edu or TEDxMSJC Organizer Chairman Kenneth Powell at kenallpowell@gmail.com.

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**About Mt. San Jacinto College**

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Mt. San Jacinto College serves about 27,000 students annually in a district covering 1,700 square miles from the San Geronio Pass to Temecula, with campuses in San Jacinto, Menifee, Banning and Temecula.

### **About TEDx (x = independently organized event)**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that brings people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. 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, often in the form of short talks delivered by leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED Conferences, including an annual gathering in Vancouver, as well as TEDWomen, intimate TED Salons and thousands of independently organized TEDx events around the world. Videos of these talks are made available, free, on TED.com and other platforms. Audio versions of the talks from TED2019 are published to TED's podcast TED Talks Daily, available on all podcast platforms.

TED's open and free initiatives for spreading ideas include TED.com, where new TED Talk videos are posted daily; TEDx, which licenses thousands of individuals and groups to host local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; the TED Fellows program, which selects innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities; the Audacious Project, which surfaces and funds critical ideas that have the potential to impact millions of lives; TEDSummit, which gathers the most engaged members of the global TED community for brainstorming, discussions, performances, workshops and an eclectic program of mainstage talks; and the educational initiative TED-Ed. TED also has a growing library of original podcasts, including The TED Interview with Chris Anderson, WorkLife with Adam Grant, TED en Español and Sincerely, X.

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