

Speakers

in alphabetical order



Jeffrey Brown is senior correspondent and chief arts correspondent for PBS NewsHour. He authored a collection of poetry entitled “The News,” and serves as an advisor to the Sun Valley Writers Conference. His numerous honors include a News & Documentary Emmy Award and a Peabody Award. He earned a bachelor’s degree in classics from the University of California, Berkeley and a master’s degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



Frank Bruni is an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*. He joined the newspaper in 1995 and began his tenure as an op-ed columnist in 2011. He is the author of three *New York Times* best sellers, including a 2015 examination of the college admissions frenzy, “Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be.” He earned a B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, and a M.S. degree in journalism, with highest honors, from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



Andrew Delbanco is president of The Teagle Foundation and Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies at Columbia University. His books include *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be* (2012). Delbanco was named “America’s Best Social Critic” in 2001 by *Time Magazine*, honored with the Great Teacher Award in 2006 by the Society of Columbia Graduates, and in 2012 was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama. Delbanco’s most recent book, *The War Before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggle for America’s Soul from the Revolution to the Civil War* (2018), won the Mark Lynton History Prize and the Anisfield-Wolf Award for “books that have made important contributions to our understanding of racism and human diversity.” Delbanco earned his A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University.



Freeman A. Hrabowski, III is president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where he has served since 1992. Under his leadership, UMBC has been nationally recognized for advancing underrepresented minorities in science and engineering and for innovations in undergraduate teaching and learning. *Time Magazine* named Hrabowski one of America’s “10 Best College Presidents” in 2009 and one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World” in 2012. His most recent book, *The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success* (2019, forthcoming), examines how institutions can foster broad leadership for innovation to address tough issues in higher education ranging from course redesign to academic inclusion. He graduated from Hampton Institute with high honors in mathematics, and received his M.A. in mathematics and Ph.D. in Statistics and Higher Education Administration, both at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Damian Jungermann is an undergraduate student majoring in American Studies at Columbia University. Prior to attending college, he served in the United States Navy for 15 years as an explosive ordnance disposal technician and was deployed on multiple tours to Afghanistan. He retired from the military with the rank of chief petty officer. His military awards include three Bronze Star Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.



Gail Mellow served as president of LaGuardia Community College from 2000 to 2019. Under her leadership, LaGuardia has been recognized among community colleges for developing programs to support at-risk students that have served as models for the sector. Mellow co-authored *Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College* (2014). She received an A. A. from Jamestown Community College, a B.A. from SUNY Albany, where she graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, and has M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Social Psychology from George Washington University.



Roosevelt Montás served as director of the Center for the Core Curriculum at Columbia University for ten years and is now a senior lecturer in American Studies and English. Montás specializes in antebellum American literature and culture, with a particular interest in American citizenship. He teaches a college-level humanities seminar for low-income high school students from northern Manhattan, speaks frequently on the history and future of liberal arts education, and is writing a book for Princeton University Press about his own experience as student and teacher. He holds A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in English from Columbia University.



Eboo Patel is founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based international non-profit that works to promote interfaith cooperation. For over 15 years he has worked with university campuses, governments, and social sector organizations to help make interfaith cooperation a social norm. Named by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009, Eboo served on President Barack Obama's inaugural Faith Council. His most recent book is *Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise* (2018). Patel holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.



Judith R. Shapiro is president emerita of Barnard College and professor emerita of anthropology of Bryn Mawr College, both of which are liberal arts colleges for women. She also served as president of the Teagle Foundation. She began her teaching career at the University of Chicago, where she was the first woman appointed to the department of anthropology. She earned her B.A. in history from Brandeis University and Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University.



Ann Kowal Smith is founder and executive director of Books@Work, an organization dedicated to building communities of openness, respect and belonging by creating the conditions for genuine human connection at every level of the workplace. Through facilitated conversation rooted in narrative literature, Books@Work encourages participants—from the shop floor to the C-suite—to challenge assumptions, reflect on life’s essential questions and deepen interpersonal relationships. Kowal Smith holds an A.B. in history of art from Bryn Mawr College, an M.A. in history of art from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. and a D.M. from Case Western Reserve University.



Jennifer Summit is provost and vice president for academic affairs at San Francisco State University (SFSU). She was previously at Stanford University, where she was a professor of English and held various leadership and administrative roles. In both her current and former roles, Summit has focused on strengthening undergraduate education and student academic support and advising. At SFSU, she continues to advance high-quality undergraduate education in the context of a large public comprehensive university. Summit received her B.A. in English from Vassar College, and completed both her M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Johns Hopkins University.



Walter C. Teagle, III is chair of the board of The Teagle Foundation and president of Teagle Management Company, a private investment consulting firm. He serves as chairman of the board of directors of The First National Bank of Long Island, a small regional commercial bank. Over the last 25 years he has been a founder, director and officer of several entrepreneurial companies. He also serves as a director, trustee and/or advisor to a number of philanthropic organizations. He graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.S. degree in economics and received an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Daniel Terris is dean of the Al-Quds Bard College of Arts and Sciences at Al-Quds University and director emeritus of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University. An intellectual historian, Terris has written on race and ethnicity in the United States, business ethics, and international law and justice, and has overseen programs that promote civic capacity-building in undergraduate education. He founded ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, a national program engaging undergraduates at colleges and universities in state-level legislative change by learning to work with legislators, staffers, and community organizations to advance policy. Terris received his Ph.D. in the history of American Civilization from Harvard University.



Melinda Zook is a professor of history at Purdue University. She launched Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts at Purdue, a program that introduces students to transformative texts that have shaped the modern world and that deepens students' understanding of historical, social, cultural, and ethical challenges that arise in such fields as engineering, technology, science, medicine, business, and public policy. Zook holds a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University.



Marina van Zuylem is a professor of French and comparative literature at Bard College. She is the national academic director of the Clemente Course in the Humanities (<http://clemente.bard.edu/>), a free college course for underserved adults, and accepted on its behalf a National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2014. She is the author of *Difficulty as an Aesthetic Principle: Realism and Unreadability in Stifter, Melville, and Flaubert* (1994), *Monomania: The Flight from Everyday Life in Art and Literature* (2005), and *The Plenitude of Distraction* (2018). She has taught at Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, and the University of Paris VII. She received a B.A. in Russian Literature and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University.