



# 2012 Spring Humanities Series

## Voices Less Heard

presented by

**Columbia Gorge Community College**

and **Gorge Literacy**

### April 4—Dr. Donna Beegle

Civic Auditorium - Community Room, 323 E 4th Street, The Dalles

Breaking through the barriers to improve outcomes for people living in the crisis of poverty.

### April 11—American Sign Language Poets

Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Ave., Hood River

Through poetry, see, hear, and feel the words and passion of the hearing impaired.

### April 18—We Speak Muralists\*

Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Ave., Hood River

Art speaks out, giving voice to the history of cultures often silenced.

\*Visit the We Speak mural, celebrating its 20th anniversary. Showing at various locations in the Gorge throughout April. Tour maps available.

### April 25—Dr. Francisco Jiménez\*

Civic Auditorium - Fireside Room, 323 E 4th Street, The Dalles

From migrant farm family roots, Jiménez tells of his struggles, perseverance, and reaching out to others to achieve his aspirations.

\*Join us in a community-wide shared reading experience. Read *Reaching Out* before April 25th. Books available at your college and local libraries.

Pre-discussion group at the The Dalles Public Library: April 17, 7-8:00 p.m.

**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

No charge, suggested donation \$5.00

For more information call 541.506.6047

This program was made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities (OH), a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds OH's grant programs.

Additional support provided by a grant from the Wasco County Cultural Trust Coalition with funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust to support Oregon's arts, heritage, and the humanities.

Local support provided by: CGCC Foundation, Friends of The Dalles-Wasco County Public Library, C.H. Urness Motor Co., Griffith Motors, Les Schwab Tire Center, NW Natural, Orchard View Farms, & Ray Schultens Motors

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True communication requires the searching out of, and active listening to, voices that may be different from our own and less familiar or available. Lack of communication has the potential to advance misunderstanding and divisiveness, leading to a breakdown in the societal structure. It is not sufficient to proceed as if all is as it should be if less than 100% of a society has the ability and opportunity to express itself and actively influence the workings of that society. Join us in our effort to foster greater communication and understanding within the Mid-Columbia.

Presenters will include individuals that can speak to the realities, perceptions and misperceptions, strengths and struggles, and shared messages of: migrant farm workers, the hearing impaired, ethnic minorities, and those living in poverty.

### Presenter Descriptions

#### Dr. Donna Beegle (author & president of *Communication Across Barriers*)

Dr. Beegle, a highly experienced and recognized national public speaker, discussion leader, and trainer, is the author of "See Poverty, Be the Difference," a resource book for professionals who work with people in poverty. Her newest publication, "An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty," offers groundbreaking strategies for breaking poverty barriers. Dr. Beegle's passion is to ensure that all people have authentic opportunities to move out and stay out of the war zone of poverty. She brings unique insights, having lived in extreme poverty for 28 years. For the past 22 years, she has studied and worked with educators, social service professionals, justice professionals, faith and community based organizations, and health professionals across 47 states and Canada to improve outcomes for people living in the crisis of poverty. Her inspiring story and work have been featured in newspapers, TV and on national programs such as PBS.

#### American Sign Language Poets (Oregon School For the Deaf [OSD], students, faculty & staff)

Presenters include: Maxwell Dexter (OSD senior), OSD's Poetry Out Loud School Champion and qualifier for the state competition; Ben Mendez (OSD junior), OSD's Poetry Out Loud Runner-up; Robert J. Rich, OSD literature teacher and ASL poet; and Gayle Robertson, OSD drama and art teacher, Poetry Out Loud school coordinator and presentation interpreter. The Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem, Oregon, is a participant in the national Poetry Out Loud competition which focuses on students and their ability to interpret, memorize and deliver poetry to an audience.

#### We Speak Muralists (Linda Dalal Sawaya, Seidel Standing Elk, Elizabeth Perry)

Sponsored by ALANA (Asians, Latinos, African and Native Americans for Justice and Peace), the *We Speak* mural was dedicated on October 4, 1992 in Portland, Oregon. In response to the celebrations surrounding the Quincentenary of Columbus' arrival in America, a group of artists and community activists from different cultural backgrounds came together to make art for social change with the belief that culture has the power to build community, educate and inspire. They believed that it was important to speak clearly of the dangerous, hidden lessons within the Columbus "myth:" might makes right, progress above human life or the natural environment, people of other cultures are inferior and stronger nations have the right to dominate weaker ones. They reminded everyone that 1992 also marked 500 years of rich, cultural traditions that have flourished in spite of repression. The mural was their attempt to give voice to these vital stories and historical facts. Now, at its twentieth anniversary, the message of *We Speak* has not changed.

#### Dr. Francisco Jiménez (author & modern languages and literature professor, Santa Clara University)

Francisco Jiménez received his BA from Santa Clara University and an MA and Ph.D. in Latin American literature from Columbia University under a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. His autobiographical books *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*, *Breaking Through*, *Reaching Out*, *La Mariposa*, and *The Christmas Gift* have won several national literary awards, including the Americas Book Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Pura Belpré Honor Book Award, the Tomás Rivera Book Award, the Jane Addams Honor Book Award and the Carter C. Woodson National Book Award. In 2002 he was selected U.S. Professor of the Year by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and in 2009 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from the University of San Francisco. He is currently the Fay Boyle Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Santa Clara University.