

World-Renowned Poet Coming To Bridgewater

Workshop With Motivational Speaker To Follow

By **JESSICA WETZLER**

Daily News- Record

BRIDGEWATER — World-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni will speak at **Bridgewater College** on Monday as part of the school's first all-day Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

A university distinguished professor at Virginia Tech, Giovanni will give a talk titled "An Evening of Poetry, Love and Enlightenment" at 7:30 p.m. in Cole Hall.

Giovanni published her first book of poetry in 1968, "Black Feeling, Black Talk/ Black Judgment," and has since published 30 books and earned 25 honorary degrees.

She was the first recipient of the Rosa L. Parks Woman of Courage Award in 2002 and named the Library of Virginia's Virginia Women in History honoree in 2015.

Bridgewater College's "Celebrating the Dream, Continuing the Journey" event joins forces with the town of **Bridgewater** for a community gathering at Oakdale Park at noon.

Attendees will be greeted with remarks by **Bridgewater College** student Keon Nesmith before marching to the town hall to hear speakers Mayor Ted Flory and **Bridgewater College** President David Bushman. Attendees will conclude their march at the Kline Campus Center at the **college**.

Taylor Martin, office support specialist for **Bridgewater College**, said a reception with light snacks and warm beverages would follow the march starting at 1 p.m.

"Students' artwork that has been submitted over the past couple of months will be on display, along with artifacts from the civil rights

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Giovanni

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Poet FROM PAGE A1 era," Martin said. Following the reception will be a workshop at 1:30 p.m. with motivational speaker and diversity and inclusion consultant Derek Greenfield.

"It is an interactive workshop designed for community building," Martin said.

A committee has been selecting speakers since September. Most of the speakers come from committee recommendations, but

Giovanni was selected by a professor.

"We are really excited to bring this event to the **college** and to the town," Martin said. "We would love to see the community come together."

All events are free and open to the public.

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