



CSU Bakersfield

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York Times Bestseller Jonathan Kozol Set to Speak at CSUB

March 24, 2017 — The Building Healthy Communities, Kern Rural Teacher Residency and Department of Political Science, Center for Social Justice at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) will host a speech by New York Times best-selling author Jonathan Kozol from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 25, in the **Student Housing Multi-Purpose Room**.

Kozol will speak on inequality in education.

“For more than 50 years, Jonathan Kozol has been an intellectual giant and spiritual guidepost for anyone looking to study or promote equity and social justice in America’s education system,” said CSUB Political Science Professor Dr. Mark A. Martinez.

In the passion of the civil rights campaigns of 1964 and 1965, Kozol gave up the prospect of a promising career in the academic world, moved from Harvard Square into a poor black neighborhood of Boston, and became a fourth-grade teacher. Since then, Kozol has devoted nearly his entire life to the challenge of providing equal opportunity to every child in public schools.

The nation’s most widely read and highly honored education writer and most eloquent advocate for children of low-income for racial diversity in schools and

universities, Kozol has been speaking to overflow crowds as child poverty has risen to unprecedented levels and racial tensions have become the focus of urgent political concern. He continues to visit children in their classrooms and give encouragement to overburdened but devoted principals and teachers.

“Building Healthy Communities Kern is thrilled to partner with CSUB’s Center for Social Justice in bringing Jonathan Kozol to Kern County,” said Annalisa Roblews, senior program manager with the California Endowment. “Mr. Kozol’s commitment to social justice and equity in our public schools is inspiring and life changing. For him to come to this corner of the country to share his work and message of hope with a new generation of teachers and education advocates in Kern is special, particularly during a time when families and students are looking for leaders and models who embrace equity and equality in public education.”

"Jonathan Kozol has brought issues of social justice and teaching for equity to the forefront of conversations around education for decades. It is our hope that future and current educators take advantage of this incredible opportunity to be inspired to improve education for all students," said Dr. Kristina LaGue, chair of CSUB’s Teacher Education Department.

This event is free and open to all current and prospective Kern County educators and the Building Healthy Communities South Kern Partners. For more information and to register for the event, please visit: <http://www.kernruralteacherresidency.org/upcoming-events.html>.

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About CSUB

California State University, Bakersfield is a comprehensive public university committed to offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programs that advance the intellectual and personal development of its students. An emphasis on student learning is enhanced by a commitment to scholarship, diversity, service, global awareness and life-long learning. The University collaborates with partners in the community to increase the region’s overall educational attainment, enhance its quality of life, and support its economic

development. The University was founded in 1965 and opened for classes in fall, 1970. Its vision is to be the leading campus in the CSU system in terms of faculty and academic excellence and diversity, quality of the student experience and community engagement. The University's faculty is world-class, with nearly 75% holding the highest degrees in their respective fields.

The University serves more than 9,500 students between the main campus in Bakersfield and CSUB - Antelope Valley and counts approximately 47,000 alumni from its four schools: Arts and Humanities; Business and Public Administration; Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering; and Social Sciences and Education. The University offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate and credential programs, and CSUB's Extended University serves the community by offering additional professional development, certificate, and degree programs.

For more information about CSUB, please visit www.csub.edu.