Freedom Writers Film Screening

featuring Erin Gruwell

Thurs., Nov. 8, 2012
6:30-9 p.m.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in the Harriet Tubman Theater

Admission is free, but space is limited. Area students, teachers and school personnel will be invited to attend the event as guests of honor. Additional seats, if available, may be requested by school or community partners beginning on Nov. 5 — cincinnatifreedomwriters@gmail.com.

Please note: Because of the sensitive nature of what will be discussed, it is recommended that students be 13 years or older and/or accompanied by a trusted adult.

Sponsored by
University of Cincinnati School of Education
Cincinnati Reds Community Fund
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Teaching for Hope and Justice Network
Miami University School of Education, Health & Society
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The Harriet Beecher Stowe House
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ERIN GRUWELL
Educator & Founder of Freedom Writers Foundation

Erin Gruwell has earned an award-winning reputation for her steadfast commitment to the future of education. Her impact as a change agent runs deep. So deep, in fact, that her story attracted Hollywood’s attention. In January 2007, Paramount Pictures released Freedom Writers, starring two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank as Erin. The film is based on the New York Times bestseller that chronicled Erin’s extraordinary journey with 150 high school students who had been written off by the education system.

With Erin’s support, they chose to forego teenage pregnancy, drugs, and violence to become aspiring college students, published writers, and citizens for change. They dubbed themselves the “Freedom Writers” — in homage to civil rights activists The Freedom Riders— and published a book.

Inspired by Anne Frank, Erin and her students captured their collective journey in The Freedom Writers Diary. Through poignant student entries and Erin’s narrative text, the book records their “eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding.” In early 2007, Teach With Your Heart, Erin’s powerful memoir and call to arms was published.

Recently, Erin’s teaching methods from her time in Room 203 have been published in the Freedom Writers Diary Teacher’s Guide. Proceeds from the sale of all books directly fund the Freedom Writers Foundation.

Erin is a graduate of the University of California Irvine, where she received the Lauds and Laurels Distinguished Alumni Award. She earned her master’s degree and teaching credentials from California State University Long Beach, where she was honored as distinguished alumna by the School of Education.