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**TED Talks to Take the Stage at SCF's Bradenton Campus**

**(June 7, 2023) Bradenton, FL ---** After a successful launch year, locally-hosted TED Talks continue with the second annual TEDxBradenton coming Friday, September 29, 2023 to the Bradenton campus of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

TEDx event co-organizers Evelyn Almodóvar and Catherine Ferrer announced the first of fifteen speakers that will fill the day-long event. The theme for 2023 is "Writing the Future" and tickets for the live event will be on sale later this summer.



The Master of Ceremony for TEDxBradenton will be **Robyn Faucy, CEO of Results 1st and 2022 TEDxBradenton speaker.**

The initial announcement of speakers, published on the TEDx Bradenton website, are:

- Gordon, Mark - Editor and Reporter at The Business Observer
- Ray, Travis - Founder/CEO Dapper Bowtique®.
- Marino, Dominic - Co-Founder of Oyster Boys Conservation

Details about each speaker are included here. Additional speaker names will be released in coming weeks on the website TEDxBradenton.com as well as via their social media on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

"Together, the TEDx planning team has found a formula that works for visibility and connection at this event" Almodovar explained. With speakers chosen, organizers are recruiting community partners who can financially support event costs like the high-quality video recording needed for publishing engaging TEDx Talk videos. The videos of speakers from 2022 have a combined total of more than 15,000 views since being published in December.

Event organizer Evelyn Almodovar referred anyone interested in learning more about TEDxBradenton to the website (TEDxBradenton.com) as well as social media at platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn (@TEDxBradenton).



### **Mark Gordon**

Mark Gordon has been an editor and reporter with the Business Observer and Observer Media Group since 2005. In that time he's written about hundreds of entrepreneurs, companies, business owners and civic leaders, from Tampa to Naples. In addition to writing stories, Mark oversees the daily online and weekly print content for the award-winning Business Observer, which reaches 160,000 readers a month. As managing editor of the paper, he coordinates coverage with a team of three full-time editors and eight freelance journalists and photographers. Mark also started writing a biweekly column on leadership in 2021, interviewing some of the region's top business leaders and consultants. With a

Bachelors Degree in Political Science and a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Villanova University he has worked as a juvenile probation officer in suburban Philadelphia. A native of Long Island, New York, Mark lives in east Manatee County with his wife, Elyse, and their 14-year-old son Aaron.



### **Travis Ray**

Travis Ray is the Founder/CEO of handcrafted bow tie and accessory brand, Dapper Bowtique®. Travis currently serves as Director of Advancement for the Urbanite Theatre in Sarasota, Florida. Ray holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in theatre management/arts administration from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre performance from Alabama State University. He recently completed the Gulf Coast Leadership

Institute and the Gulf Coast Board Institute. Ray volunteers his time at Visible Men Academy, AMIKids, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Marwine Organization, Inc. and proudly serves on the board of directors for Realize Bradenton. He is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and he recently taught Acting 1 at New College of Florida this past Fall 2022. Travis is married to Jonah Ray and they have a 5 year old doggy named Chance.



### **Dominic Marino**

Dom was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. In his early years he was always busy on the water with his brother Vince. You could almost always find these two wakeboarding behind a boat, fishing off a dock, or cleaning up shorelines even before they founded Oyster Boys Conservation. He attended college and played football at Florida Atlantic and Missouri Western State. In his spare

time, he enjoys fishing, playing with his dog, tending to his chickens, and selling custom clothing. Dom values spending time with his family and building real world connections with others. He is currently engaged to his fiancé Rachel and the two of them enjoy spending time outdoors together on their homestead in Osprey. Dom has a strong vision for the world and believes in the importance of healthy food, quality education, and tight-knit communities. In his work as an Associate Administrator and nonprofit President, he strives to make a positive impact on the lives of others and to create a better future for all.

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### **About TED**

TED is on a mission to discover and spread ideas that spark imagination, embrace possibility and catalyze impact. Our organization is devoted to curiosity, reason, wonder and the pursuit of knowledge — without an agenda. We welcome people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world and engagement with others, and we invite everyone to engage with ideas and activate them in your community.

TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged. Today it spans a multitude of worldwide communities and initiatives exploring everything from science and business to education, arts and global issues. Aside from the hundreds of TED Talks curated from our annual conferences and published on [TED.com](https://www.ted.com), we produce original podcasts, short video series, [animated TED-Ed lessons](#) and TV programs that are translated into more than 100 languages and distributed via partnerships around the world. Each year, more than 3,000 independently run [TEDx events](#) bring people together to share ideas and bridge divides in communities on every continent. Through the [Audacious Project](#), TED has helped catalyze nearly \$3 billion in funding for projects that seek to make the world more beautiful, sustainable and just. In 2020, TED launched [Countdown](#), an initiative to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis and mobilize a movement for a net-zero emission future. View a full list of TED's [many programs and initiatives](#).

TED is owned by a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation. Our aim is to help create a future worth pursuing for all.

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### **ABOUT TEDx, x = independently organized event**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)