

News release



Everett Public Schools

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**Derek Greenfield to highlight third annual
High School & Beyond events
*Speaker's messages inspire adults and students***



With just a month before the third annual series of *High School & Beyond* events Oct. 23, 24 and 25 at three of Everett Public Schools high schools, excitement is growing – as is the list of activities and special events each evening.

[Dr. Derek Greenfield](#) will keynote the events at Everett and Cascade high schools on Oct. 23 and 25 and bring a special message to elementary and middle school families and students at H.M. Jackson High on Oct. 24.

Greenfield is a highly-sought motivational speaker and current director of Educational Equity and Inclusion and assistant professor of sociology at [Alcorn State University](#) in Mississippi. His ties to the Pacific Northwest include his current doctoral *Cultural Studies* at the University of Washington. He spent seven years as an award-winning youth worker in inner-city Chicago. He carries his messages of motivation, success, team building and leadership to townships of South Africa as well where his youth development work inspires young people to attain personal success, set goals, seek education and strive for excellence.

Becky Ballbach, assistant principal at Gateway Middle School, also coordinates the work of elementary, middle and high school counselors in the district. In large part, the annual *High School & Beyond* events at the high schools are counselor-coordinated. “We are excited to have Dr. Greenfield bring his energy and enthusiasm to the 3,000, plus students and adults we expect for this year’s events,” said Ballbach. “He has an extraordinary way of combining humor and inspiration that ignites students and adults to aspire to quality, educational success.”

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Dr. Derek Greenfield will bring his special energy and message about success and motivation to the High School & Beyond events, Oct. 23, 24 and 25.

Special thanks to the Everett Public Schools Foundation for helping sponsor High School & Beyond.

Ballbach notes that Greenfield brings his messages to groups large and small, to corporations and to classrooms. Her anticipation of Greenfield's positive impact on district students and families is infectious. "The man simply lights up those fortunate enough to interact with him," she says. "We are indeed fortunate that he is available for three nights in a row for our families."

Greenfield is part of each evening's (Oct. 23, 24 and 25) happenings for students and families with kindergarten through high school connections in the district. As in years past, school buses will transport families from neighborhood locations to their local high school. Once at a high school, attendees will be able to talk directly to representatives of apprentice programs, trade schools, community colleges, and four-year universities and specialty schools.

"We'll have workshops about how to get financial help for education after high school," explained Ballbach. "We'll have people who can help plan what school courses an elementary or middle school student might consider if that student is interested in a career in the arts, in science, in public service or any other field. We'll help parents and guardians understand what to look for and how to engage students in conversations about after-high-school planning and setting success goals."

Events begin at 6 p.m. at each school, with transportation available until the 8 p.m. closure time each evening. "Although the events are planned with the elementary, middle and high school attendance areas in mind, anyone from any region of the district is welcome to come to any of the school events," emphasized Ballbach, "as are families from neighboring districts who see the benefits of this great community partnership among our schools and the Everett Public Schools Foundation."

She also notes that school families will soon be getting program specifics and details from their schools, and more detailed information about each evening's schedule will be on school websites. Events take place at schools at the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Oct. 23, Everett High School, 5 – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct 24, H.M. Jackson High School, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 25, Cascade High School, 5 – 8 p.m.

Ballbach suggests checking with your school counselor or principals for more details if you have questions before the information reaches your home or is on the school website.

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