

**From:** Angela Thomas <drangela@tedxfredericksburg.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 4:15 PM

**To:** Jackie Gallagher (jgallagh) <jgallagh@umw.edu>; Kavatus Newell <drkay@tedxfredericksburg.com>

**Subject:** Invitation to Inaugural TEDxFredericksburg Conference

Good Afternoon Dr. Gallagher,

I'm excited to extend a special invitation to you and your faculty to apply to become speakers at the **first inaugural TEDxFredericksburg conference!**

I am the organizer of TEDxFredericksburg and personally applied and received the license for this academic and cultural staple to come to Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg is where I live and serve and my career as a healthcare executive, researcher, and academic has been heavily informed by TED and TEDx talks given around the world.

TED was founded in 1984; the acronym stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design. The annual TED conference brings together some of the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED created a program called TEDx where x = independently organized.

Yet, the event is as much about the attendees as it is the speakers. "TEDxFredericksburg will attract some of the brightest people from our area. Those who will take the ideas presented and use them as a catalyst for change in the Fredericksburg community."

We have confirmed August 3, 2019, as the date for a locally organized TEDx event. The independently organized event, operated under license from TED, will be held at Zion Church of Fredericksburg at 2222 Jefferson Davis Highway. We are organizing this year's event along the theme of "Disruptors, Distractors, & Defenders". Here's more about the theme:

We all face unexpected circumstances, challenges, issues, and problems individually, in science, in industry, and in our communities. Some come in the form of DISRUPTORS that will literally change our entire trajectory -- good or bad. Others come in the form of DISTRACTORS, simply causing one to veer from the correct trajectory. While DEFENDERS are those tried and true staples that remain critical along the way. We'll explore processes to identify DISRUPTORS, DISTRACTORS, AND DEFENDERS in industry, science, individually, and as a collective community.

The conference will feature 10-15 of the area's leading thinkers, innovators, artists, philosophers and entertainers representing such diverse fields as technology, entertainment, visual and performance art, design, politics, music, ecology, and education, among others. ***Again, I want to extend a special invitation to you and your faculty to apply to become speakers! We are accepting and vetting speakers! More information about the event can be found at <https://www.tedxfredericksburg.com/2019-speakers> .***

To find out more about me personally, feel free to visit [www.angeladthomas.com](http://www.angeladthomas.com) . To learn more about TEDxFredericksburg, please visit [www.TEDxFredericksburg.com](http://www.TEDxFredericksburg.com)

Please pass this opportunity along to your faculty. I sincerely hope that we are able to include some of your faculty on the program as speakers or at the very least have them attend this EXCITING and HISTORICAL event in Fredericksburg.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Angela

Angela D. Thomas, DrPH, MPH, MBA  
Organizer

TEDxFredericksburg

**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.)*

**About TED**

*TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks delivered by today's leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED's annual gathering in Vancouver, Canada, TEDWomen and TEDGlobal conferences, and thousands of independently organized TEDx events around the world, then made available, free, on [TED.com](http://TED.com) and other channels.*

*TED's open and free initiatives for spreading ideas include [TED.com](http://TED.com), where new TED Talk videos are posted daily; [TEDx](http://TEDx), which provides licenses to thousands of individuals and groups who host local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; the [TED Fellows](http://TED Fellows) program, which selects innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities; and the educational initiative [TED-Ed](http://TED-Ed).*

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Dr. Angela D. Thomas

Organizer

TEDxFredericksburg

[www.TEDxFredericksburg.com](http://www.TEDxFredericksburg.com)