

UW-Stevens Point: To host premiere of PBS's 'American Creed'

Posted on Thursday, Feb 1, 2018

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A Wisconsin Public Television documentary featuring a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point senior and military veteran will premiere at the university next month.

"American Creed," featuring communication major Tegan Griffith, will be shown at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Dreyfus University Center Alumni Room. Griffith will lead a town hall discussion following the premiere and an appetizer buffet will be served. The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5 p.m.

In the film, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Kennedy and a diverse group of Americans come together to explore whether a unifying set of beliefs – an American creed – can prove more powerful than the issues that divide us. The documentary presents stories that remind all of the ideals that hold people together as Americans.

Griffith, a Marine who left active duty as a sergeant in 2009 after serving in Iraq, grew up in Wittenberg. Producers of "American Creed" learned of her story due to her advocacy work with the nonprofit group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. She will graduate in May with an emphasis in public relations.

Other participants in the film include author Junot Diaz, Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon, the co-founders of both progressive and Tea Party political groups, several second-generation Americans and an elementary school principal with Creek Indian ancestry.

“I think the American ideal of citizenship is about service to others, either through military service or volunteerism or advocacy,” says Griffith, in the film. “Even if I don’t necessarily agree with their opinions, I still appreciate them because that freedom is the fabric of my uniform. You put that uniform on to protect their right to do that. That’s what it means to serve the country.”

“American Creed” premieres on Wisconsin Public Television and Milwaukee PBS at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. For more information, visit www.americancreed.org.

Wisconsin Public Television is a service of the Educational Communications Board and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. It is broadcast on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.