

Common to speak at commencement for WSSU grads

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Award-winning recording artist and actor Common will be the speaker for Winston-Salem State University's 2015 commencement on Friday, May 15, at 9:45 a.m. in Bowman Gray Stadium.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Common as our commencement speaker considering his recent accomplishments, both as a musician and an actor," said Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson. "While he has been performing for more than 20 years, he certainly has hit another level in his career. More importantly, he continues to strive to inspire young people to take advantage of all the opportunities they are presented and to work diligently to fulfill their individual potential."

I know he will have a message that will have a positive impact on our graduates and I also know how excited they are to have him be a part of their commencement ceremony."

A two-time Grammy Award winner, Common won the 2015 Academy Award and the 2015 Golden Globe Award for best original song for his work with John Legend on "Glory" from the film "Selma," in which he co-starred as 1960s civil rights movement leader James Bevel.

Also one of the country's leading hip-hop artists, he debuted in 1992 with the album "Can I Borrow a Dollar" and gained notable mainstream success through his work with the Soulquarians.

Common earned his first Grammy Award in 2003 for best R&B song for "Love of My Life" with Erykah Badu and his second Grammy for best rap performance by a duo or group for "Southside" which featured Kanye West.

In addition to his recent appearance in

"Selma," Common will star in the soon-to-be-released "Run All Night" with Liam Neeson. He made his major movie debut in 2007 as villainous mob enforcer Sir Ivy in "Smokin' Aces" and appeared alongside Denzel Washington in "American Gangster." His other film credits include "Wanted," "Street Kings," "Terminator Salvation" and the comedy "Date Night."

Common is the founder of the Common Ground Foundation, a nonprofit that exposes underserved inner-city young people to new opportunity through the creative arts.

Over the past 12 years, the organization has broadened its focus also to include mentoring, a summer camp and creating job-training experiences for youth throughout the City of Chicago, Common's hometown. Last year, the Foundation hosted its inaugural Spring Youth Business Conference to provide students with job readiness skills.

Also launched in 2014 was the AAHH! FEST hosted by Common, a one-day community-wide musical celebration that also provides a variety of job-related experiences for students.

The Common Ground Foundation has been recognized by CNN Heroes and BET Hip Hop Awards as a philanthropic organization doing great work in urban communities.



Common

Mayor seeks applicants for boards and commissions

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Allen Joines is accepting applications from city residents interested in serving on the following boards and commissions:

- *Human Relations Commission (1 opening)
- *Public Assembly Facilities Commission (5 openings)
- *Zoning Board of Adjustment (3 openings)

Applications must be received by April 10.

The application form, along with descriptions of the boards, is available through the Boards and Commissions link at Mayor.CityofWS.org, or by calling the Mayor's Office at 336-727-2058.

Applications may be faxed to the Mayor's Office at 336-748-3241 or mailed to P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. For more information call the Mayor's Office.

Winston-Salem promotes 'Everyone Matters Day'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The city Human Relations Commission is joining with local advocacy groups to promote "Everyone Matters Day" in Winston-Salem on Thursday, April 2.

Members of the commission, along with representatives of the Hispanic League, Interfaith WS, Equality Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council, North Star LGBT Community Center, the College Advisory Board, Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals and Winston Under 40 will be distributing locally designed "Everyone Matters" stickers to promote inclusiveness and acceptance.

Everyone Matters Day is a worldwide movement founded by journalist and social entrepreneur Heath Cliff Rothman that seeks to bring together local governments, celebrities and the public at large in order to help people embrace inclusiveness and tolerance.



Submitted photo

Pictured in the photo from left to right: Dan Ozimek, Emergency Services Director; Daren Ziglar; Brent Motsinger; Amelia Griffin; Mark Johnson; Christopher Davis; Timothy Whicker; Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry; Herbert Swaim; and Russell Gentry.

Forsyth County fire and EMS receive distinguished SHARP awards from N.C.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

N.C. Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry presented the prestigious SHARP award to the Emergency Services divisions at the County Commissioners meeting Thursday, March 12.

The SHARP award (Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program) recognizes employers with exemplary safety and health programs and who have maintained

injury/illness rates below the national average.

The SHARP award is an exceptional achievement for these employees who perform some of the most difficult and challenging work there is, said Commissioner Berry. Forsyth County Fire and EMS have joined an elite group of public sector employers. Our EMS Department is the first in North Carolina to achieve this status and the Fire Department is one of only

six others in the state.

Commissioner Berry praised the Emergency Services Department for its exceptional public service and recognized them as a model public sector agency in North Carolina.

The Commissioner presented SHARP plaques to the Fire Division, EMS Station 8, EMS Station 6, and the EMS stations in Clemmons and Kernersville. She also presented the SHARP Flag to the two divisions.



The buffalo are here.

George Catlin's

AMERICAN BUFFALO

Free Community Day Pow Wow
April 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

REYNOLDA HOUSE
MUSEUM of AMERICAN ART

reynoldahouse.org | 2250 Reynolda Road

George Catlin's American Buffalo is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in collaboration with the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Mary Anne and Richard W. Cree, and Lynn and Foster Friess. Additional support for the exhibition and the publication was provided by the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund and the Smithsonian Council for American Art. Support for Treasures to Go, the Museum's traveling exhibition program, comes from The C.F. Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia.



Reynolda House is grateful for the generous support of George Catlin's American Buffalo from Major Sponsor First Tennessee Bank.

Detail: George Catlin, Buffalo Bull, Grazing on the Prairie, 1832-1833, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr.

St. Peter's
CHURCH AND WORLD OUTREACH CENTER

Easter

SUNDAY

9:30AM

306 OLD FLEXINGTON ROAD
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

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