

## TEDxMahtomedi 2016 Speaker's List

1. **Jen Coleman:** "Poetry's Role in Saving the World"
  - Jen lives in Portland, OR, but she is originally from MN. She works for the Oregon Environmental Council and has authored two books on poetry. How can poetry help as humans save our impacts on the planet?
2. **Julie Dahl:** "Teen Sleep Deprivation"
  - Julie is a nurse practitioner, who has worked in sleep medicine for over a decade and she is on the board of the MN Sleep Society. Her focus will be on the unique sleep needs of teens and how the current school schedules may deprive them of much needed sleep. They need 8 -10 hrs vs. on 7 -8 hrs for adults. By allowing them the sleep schedules that they need, the potential benefits might be decreased depression and car accidents, and increased graduation rates, etc.
3. **Randy LaFoy:** "Being a Renaissance Person"
  - Randy is a self-styled jack of all trades, many talents and hobbies, and he wants to present the personal and community benefits of setting our sights high. He works at Century College in the Fab Lab and has served as Mayor of Birchwood Village.
4. **Liz Schreier:** "Homelessness Among Us"
  - Liz is the executive Director for the St. Andrews Community Resource center. Her talk will focus on the culture of poverty in our community.
5. **Kimberly Byrd:** "True Sustainability"
  - Kimberly has a PhD in wolf biology and currently teaches sustainability at the U of MN. Her talk will present topics such as the ethical consequence of environmental decision making, cost benefits, social justice, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity.
6. **Steve Boland:** "Collective Philanthropy"
  - Steve will discuss the collective impact of small givers. Institutions have a large impact on the outcome of donations, but individuals actually contribute more overall. The challenge for individuals to achieve collective power, and tools are emerging for this.
7. **Michael Chan:** "Faith, Firearms and Civility"
  - Michael is an Old Testament scholar at Luther College. "If Americans are to have an informed conversation about the role of firearms in American society, they must recognize that, for many citizens, guns are not simply a political issue, they are also a religious one," he wrote on YouTube. "But this should come as no surprise, for guns, like religion, deal with the profound human realities of life, death, will, power, and freedom." The presentation will describe the research project and the most important preliminary findings, leading to a summary discussion of the cultural implications.
8. **Michael Brooks:** "Planning for People, Not Cars"
  - Mike is a local advocate for safe routes for pedestrians and bikers in the White Bear Lake area. His talk will present the past successes and opportunities for the future in WBL, such as the Vento Trail extension, the Lake Links Trail, Hwys. 61 and 96 improvements, etc.
9. **Ron Anderson:** "Racial Equity"
  - Ron is a self-described privileged, middle-aged white guy from the suburbs. He holds a doctorate in educational psychology and has spent his entire career in higher education administration, primarily in the public sector. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the Minnesota State colleges and universities system, and previously served as president of Century College. He will present a talk focused on racial equity, the challenges we face as a community and nation, and the call to action that is needed.