

# SPARK!



**TED<sup>x</sup>**Hickory  
**x**=independently organized TED event

**MARCH 21 2015**

**SALT BLOCK AUDITORIUM**

**HICKORY NORTH CAROLINA**

# Welcome to **TED<sup>x</sup>**Hickory

**x** = independently organized TED event



## **Welcome to TEDxHickory.**

We're glad you could join us for the fourth year of our event. TEDx events are held all around the world, and we are proud to have Hickory, North Carolina on that long and growing list.

## **Expectations**

Today's event may be a little different than you are used to. You will hear presentations from a wide variety of individuals from our area, speaking about topics ranging from business to technology, arts to social and environmental issues. TEDx presentations are under 18 minutes, so we're sticking to that rule. No questions from the audience, no follow-up. Just people giving their talk, then moving on to the next one. You can read their bios later in this program.

## **TEDx Presentations**

TEDx presentations, are meant to share ideas. Hence the TED tagline: "Ideas worth sharing." These are

presentations from people who have an idea or project to share, and want to let you know why these ideas are important to them. The hope is you hear something today that makes you think differently about your own life, business, or social causes.

## **Schedule**

We will have four sessions of presentations, separated by a lunch and some other breaks. Snacks and drinks are being provided throughout the day. We would encourage you to visit the exciting exhibits at the Hickory Museum of Art during your lunch break. We plan to be done by around 4pm, more or less.

## **Your hosts**

TEDxHickory was planned by a very dedicated group of individuals, all offering to spend a great deal of the free time outside of their personal and professional lives to put together an exciting day. The idea for TEDxHickory originated with the

Media & Technology GUILD right here in Hickory.

## **Your emcee**

Your emcee for the day is Mary Margaret Baker, a native of Hickory and very involved in both the local business and arts community. She is the Director of Jackson Group Interactive, a video & multimedia production company, and co-Executive Producer of The MESH, a new media podcast network. She is also a member of many various boards and civic groups throughout the community.

## **Finally**

There are some ground rules for the day — you can read them towards the end of the program. But the main thing is to have an open mind to the ideas and projects being shared, and to let us know if you get inspired to sign up to talk about it at TEDxHickory 2016!

# TED<sup>x</sup> Hickory Speakers

**x = independently organized TED event**

## Chris Anthony

Chris Anthony aka the Straw Hat Farmer is the founder of Grow Dinner Aquaponics. He has been recognized worldwide for his accomplishments in Aquaponics gardening through teaching others how to grow food in a non-traditional way. To reach his personal goal of helping others learn to eat healthy and become more self-sustainable, he provides others with the knowledge of how to do Aquaponics at home and on a commercial farming level. Aquaponics is a self-sustainable gardening method where fish and vegetables grow in the same system where nutrient rich water from the fish tank circulates through the system giving plants the nutrients needed to grow fresh organic healthy vegetables and fish. Because Aquaponics can produce more food per square foot than any system on earth, it can help change the world and its need for a nutritional diet. Chris recognizes it is time for a change in the world's food supply and Aquaponics is the solution.



## Garion Bunn

An award-winning motivational keynote presenter and coach, Garion Bunn has been inspiring, educating and empowering people and organizations around the globe with his "goal-setter, go-getter message." His high-energy seminars on leadership, presentation skills, team-building and customer service excellence offer practical, impactful strategies for success that leave participants "fired-up" and fueled to tackle the business challenges of the workplace.



## Michael Deckard

Michael Funk Deckard is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Lenoir-Rhyne University. He teaches courses on conflict, ethics, history of philosophy, and aesthetics. He is co-convenor of Peace Theories commission of the International Peace Research Association.



## Elizabeth Beadle

Elizabeth Beadle is a practicing chiropractor and acupuncturists in Hickory, NC. The healing arts suit her personality as they compliment her passion for health and wellness. She earned her Bachelors degree in Canada, Masters degree in Applied Physiology from Columbia University in NYC, then doctor of chiropractic from National College of Chiropractic (NCC) in Chicago. She was a "Physiology Fellow" and received the "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities Award" at NCC. Following graduation, Dr. Beadle was an instructor for "Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physiology". In 2002, Elizabeth earned her NCCAOM Diplomate in acupuncture and she has complimented her Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) training by studying "Classical Chinese Medicine" as taught by the Jung Tao School in Boone, NC. Elizabeth was voted HDR "Best & Finest" Chiropractor in 2009, 2012 - 14. She has practiced at "Healing For Life" in Hickory for 15 years. She is also a competitive ski racer, ice hockey player, cyclist, and equestrian.



## Tony Eltora

Raised in Richmond, VA, Tony Eltora grew up playing and performing at the age of twelve. Drawing from his vast love of all styles of music, Tony Eltora's sound is a mix of blues, jazz and soul. Tony moved to Hickory NC in 1998 where he continued to perform regionally and teach private guitar instruction. He has shared the stage with many national and regional musicians including, Tim Reynolds, Karl Denson, Oteil Burbridge and Acoustic Syndicate, to name a few.



# TED<sup>x</sup> Hickory Speakers

**x = independently organized TED event**

## Nicole Greer

As the principal coach and CEO of Vibrant Coaching, Nicole Greer, PPCC helps individuals, corporations, government entities and small business become the people they were created to be through defining and fulfilling a mission, to work better in teams, and exemplify excellent leadership. Using transcendent leadership programs and coach training, Nicole provides her clients foundational tools, uncommon wisdom and an advantage in the marketplace. For the last 20 years, Nicole has worked as a coach, marketing director, master of first impressions, and sales trainer in the many facets of organizational development. Nicole is a wife, mother, speaker, trainer, facilitator, life and leadership coach.



## John Rouda

John Rouda is an IT professional and Computer Science Professor. Currently, he manages a team of web and mobile app developers and teaches as an adjunct faculty member at York Technical College and at Winthrop University. John has over 50 mobile apps in the Apple Appstore as well as over 20 in the Google Play Marketplace. He holds two master degrees, one in Business Administration and one in Computer Science. He has written 2 books that can be found on Amazon & Audible. John is married to a beautiful wife and has two wonderful kids who he dearly loves. He volunteers for his church and enjoys running, even though he's slow. You can find out more about John at <http://www.johnrouda.com/> or follow him on twitter @johnrouda.



## Joe Houde

Joe Houde is an expert on human learning. He helps organizations create environments where their people can learn more effectively through experience. Over the past 20 years, he has developed and taught action learning, computer simulations, game-based learning and Analogically Situated Experiences for companies in 12 different countries. His clients include companies in the telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, professional services, consulting, logistics and medical fields.



## Brian Smith

Brian Smith is a Catawba County native. He has been married to his wife, Liz, for over 15 years. His daughter, Ella, is 10 years old. He works for Newton-Conover City Schools and is a Top Teacher blogger for Scholastic. He also teaches several courses at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Brian has served as Vice President of the North Carolina branch of the International Dyslexia Association and is currently treasurer of the Catawba Valley Autism Society. He also is a board member for the Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center. He has been featured on the Parent Trip podcast and The Mesh's Storytime Station video series. In 2014 Brian was named Catawba Valley's Best Elementary Teacher and recognized as one of the Top 10 Professionals Under 40. Connect with Brian on his Scholastic Blog, by e-mail at [brian\\_smith@nccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:brian_smith@nccs.k12.nc.us), or on Twitter @dad2ella.



## Henry Morphis

Henry S. Morphis is the owner of Morphis Law & Mediation. His law firm is located in Hickory, NC and focuses on Wills, Estates, Business Law, Tax Law, Guardianships, Elder Care Law and Real Estate Law. Henry was born in Hickory, NC. He has earned a Bachelor of Science in Wood Products from N.C. State, and a Juris Doctorate from Campbell University. Henry and his wife Lisa live in Hickory with their two children and are active members of First United Methodist Church. In his spare time Henry enjoys gardening, canoeing, hiking, and being a Tiger Cub den leader.



## D.I. von Briesen

D.I. von Briesen is an educator with a focus on helping people demystify their world. He holds a faculty position with Central Piedmont Community College in the IT Division, is an adjunct at AppState, and works actively in the community to encourage kids to explore their world. D.I. is the creator of the EcoBox - an off-grid living workshop and environmental lab. He lives in Charlotte with his wife and a variety of small people and animals of various shapes and sizes.





# **TED<sup>x</sup>**Hickory Information

**x** = independently organized TED event

## **today's agenda**

Welcome  
•  
Session One  
•  
Video / Break  
•  
Session Two  
•  
Lunch  
•  
Activity  
•  
Session Three  
•  
Video / Break  
•  
Session Four  
•  
Entertainment  
•  
Session5  
•  
Reception / Closing

## **ground rules**

No food or drink in the auditorium.

Please silence your cell phones during the sessions.

Be considerate of others when leaving or entering your seat during a session.

Have an open mind, and have fun.

## **planning committee**

Terry Bledsoe • Karen Dickerson  
Jeff Dowgas • Fran Farthing  
Tamara Faulkner • Alan Jackson  
J Johnson • Donna Murray  
Hani Nassar • Wanda Pitchford  
Amanda Simpson • Abigail Taylor  
Allison Turner • Kimberly Wallace-Repaire  
Lee Yount • Shela Yount

## **volunteers**

We want to thank all of this year's volunteers for their help in making the event a success. You will see many of them during the day wearing their TEDx t-shirts... give them a pat on the back when you see them!

## **special thanks**

Bistro 127 • Phillip & Venus Bowman  
D.I. von Briesen • Tony Eltora  
SALT Block • Hickory Museum of Art  
Erika Rowland • Brian Hargreaves  
Brandon Pope

## **reception**

After today's last session, all attendees are asked to join us in the Hickory Museum of Art main gallery for a closing reception. Food and drink will be available as closing comments are given.

# TEDxHickory Sponsors & Supporters

x = independently organized TED event



Life. Well Crafted.



HICKORY  
MUSEUM  
OF ART



LENOIR-RHYNE  
UNIVERSITY



OrthoCarolina  
HICKORY

Special Thanks to:  
Pope & Peggy Shuford  
Buck Shuford

