



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Free Discussion about Our Beliefs about Poverty

The October 18 event is part of Oregon Humanities' statewide Conversation Project.

If you've grown up in the United States, chances are you've been conditioned to trust that your individual success is earned through hard work. But if this is the case, what do we make of the millions of Americans who struggle with poverty, hunger, and job insecurity? Who is to blame for poverty? What qualities or conditions allow a person to be considered "deserving" of government and community support? What are our beliefs about poverty and who do we think should be eligible for support?

This is the focus of "Who are the Deserving Poor?" a free conversation with Erica Tucker at 6 p.m., Thursday, October, 18 at City of Springfield, Library Meeting Room: 225 Fifth Street, Springfield. This program is hosted by City of Springfield and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Erica Tucker is a Portland native whose curiosity about social conditions grew while witnessing family struggle with substance abuse and society's intolerance of her biracial identity. This led to her work at nonprofit organizations and schools, with children experiencing domestic violence and mental health barriers. She received her master's in social work from Portland State University and continues to be an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – a community-conscious, action-oriented organization. Currently, she works in the world of affordable housing, managing the resident services program at REACH Community Development. She feeds her passion for curiosity and challenging conversations as a poverty trainer and the lead of her organization's trauma-informed care team.

For more information about this free community discussion, please contact Vahana Keene at 541.726.3671 or vkeene@springfield-or.gov. Due to the sometimes sensitive nature of these conversations, we do request that prior notice be given if members of the media plan to attend so that we may prepare the participants for that possibility.

Oregon Humanities (921 SW Washington, Suite 150; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas that change lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink,

Humanity in Perspective, Public Program Grants, Responsive Program Grants, and *Oregon Humanities* magazine, can be found at oregonhumanities.org. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.