



California  
Community  
Colleges

Rising Scholars  
Network

Register Now For  
**Voices of Freedom**

*Stories of Hope from Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated  
Rising Scholars Students*

The California Community Colleges announce the launch of the Rising Scholars Network, an equity-driven initiative of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to prioritize and serve incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students. Join more than 50 participating community colleges as we elevate the powerful voices of students who have experienced incarceration. Hosted in partnership with the Campaign for College Opportunity.

- Hear directly from students, including a student who will join the webinar from prison
- Learn how the student experience is impacted by the deep inequities of the criminal justice system, and how higher education can bring us closer to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice
- Preview The Possibility Report, the Campaign for College Opportunity's forthcoming report on systematic barriers formerly incarcerated individuals face in accessing and completing a college education
- Experience Reginald Dwayne Betts, award-winning American poet and New York Times author, as he talks about his journey from incarceration to Yale Law School

California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley will welcome the speakers.

**DATE**

**Friday, February 5, From 10:00- 11:00 a.m. PST**



**FEATURING**

**Reginald Dwayne Betts,**

Award-winning American poet and New York Times author

**Reginald Dwayne Betts** is a poet and lawyer. He is the Director of the Million Book Project, an initiative out of the Yale Law School's Justice Collaboratory to radically transform the access to literature in prisons. For more than 20 years, he has used his poetry and essays to explore the world of prison and the effects of violence and incarceration on American society. The author of a memoir and three collections of poetry, his latest collection of poetry, *Felon*, explores the post incarceration experience and lingering consequences of a criminal record. In 2019, Betts won the National Magazine Award in the Essays and Criticism category for his New York Times Magazine essay that chronicles his journey from prison to

becoming a licensed attorney. He is a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow and a 2018 Emerson Fellow at New America and holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.

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**About Rising Scholars Network**



# Voices of Freedom

California Community College Webinar

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The California Community Colleges Rising Scholars Network is a diverse group of professors, counselors, college administrators, collegiate staff and both formerly and currently incarcerated students. Our dedicated network is driven by college professionals committed to supporting students' access and success in the California community colleges. We offer transferable degree-granting courses to more than 12,000 students in California's prisons, jails and juvenile facilities, and more than 40 of our colleges host support programs and on-campus student clubs dedicated to the success of formerly incarcerated students. The Rising Scholars colleges believe that serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students is a critical matter of equity and is a core component of the Vision for Success. We stand on elevating opportunities to individuals, families, and communities impacted by mass incarceration, and we pair high expectations with high support to build a generation of graduates and leaders in the community.

