

## Syracuse University to Host First All-Student TedX Panel

*By Ashley Britton*

**SYRACUSE, N.Y., Jan. 28, 2020** – TEDxSyracuseUniversity will be held in the Joyce Herghenhan Auditorium on the university's campus on Feb. 7, 2020 at 8 p.m. This is the seventh year the university has hosted an event on campus. However, unlike in previous years, this will be the first time where each speaker will be current Syracuse students.

This year's theme is "A Seat at the Table," which represents the eleven speakers coming from each of the colleges within Syracuse. Each speaker will have the opportunity to share his or her innovative ideas, experience, and representation of their collective student voices.

"By incorporating students from different schools, we fulfill the TEDx vision of sharing a multitude of innovative ideas while providing a platform for student voices to be heard," said Noel Bensalem, the creative director of TEDxSyracuse. "Our goal is an experience that will empower a diverse coalition with the platform to change audience attitudes for the better."

According to the event's page, TEDx Syracuse University is an independently organized TED event that stems from the original TED organization, aiming to promote the mission "ideas worth spreading." TEDx

events denote a local conference with the hopes of educating and engaging different communities around the world by providing a similar TED-like experience.



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Each of the speakers will present from a wide range of topics that are relevant to the Syracuse community. Some speakers expected to present include Chandler Jacobs, a second-year law student who drafted an amendment to a current legislation focusing on preventing sexual violence; Yuliia Popyk, an IR student from Kyiv, Ukraine who will talk about why people are an important piece of the “soft power” process; Lizhen Liang, who will present his research on certain biases of artificial intelligence, and so on.

With only two weeks until the conference, the Syracuse team coordinators have made sure to heavily promote the event to the Syracuse community to highlight the importance of the all-student panel. One sophomore majoring in Public Relations, Mya Pfeifer, shared her excitement in attending because of the event’s significant impact it has on the future of students and their representation on campus.

“Having an all-student panel is significant for the rest of the student body because it’s giving us a new platform to voice our opinions and thoughts,” says Pfeifer. “It could ultimately open the door for a new forum style which allows for students to speak more expressively and freely.”

The conference is already sold out in tickets but will be live streamed through the official TEDx Syracuse University Facebook page, and the videos of each speaker will be posted on the TEDx YouTube channel following the event.

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***The following information is not intended to be factual but is part of a class writing assignment from January 2020 to April 2020 at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. All information is intended to be sourced appropriately.***