

Friends Association for Higher Education's Quaker Leadings in Higher Education series presents:

**Truth Tellers:
Higher Education, the Arts, and Social Justice**

September 27, 2022

The importance of Truth, Creativity, and the Human Story in our classrooms, our institutions, and society.

Presenters:

Robert Shetterly

American Artist

americanswhotellthetruth.org

Moderator:

Matt Zisk

Attorney and Retired Professor

Founder and Executive Director

Cherry Brook Arts

Agenda and Edited Chat

Welcome and introductions

Matt Zisk

Opening:

Robert Shetterly shares the story of his leading to undertake the Truth Tellers project.

Breakout Groups:

Introduce yourselves

Choose a query:

- How does truth and truth telling show up in your life and your classrooms or workplaces?
- How do the creative arts provide inspiration?
- What do you need to be faithful to the leading?
- What gets in the way?

Craft a question or comment emerging from one of these queries and choose someone willing to post that query/comment in the chat when you return to the full group.

Friends return to the main Zoom room.

Hold scribes in the light as they write up their query/comment

The narrative approach to things is inadequate and other creative arts can help us gain insight. What are our responsibilities to the people closest to us when we seek a painful truth? How multigenerational is the conversation about truth; how do we discern the truth between generations? We need to incorporate grief and messiness into our justice work. Grief is a kind of truth telling, to accept, to walk cheerfully over the Earth. Talking to people, one on one, is important as is being responsible for what you say.

The arts provide us with the great hope that we can transform the frequent lack of truth telling we encounter on campuses and beyond.

We noticed the contrast between the inherent creativity and the projection that comes through social media representations that surrounds us. Also, how easy it is to dismiss our creativity in our various endeavors and our work. Consuming so much information, it is easy to doubt who the real truth tellers are.

In the post Trump era a feeling that people don't always care about learning what the truth actually is.

When exploring the truth with people from different perspectives, one needs to have compassion, and nurture the ability to meet someone where they are, and the courage to keep challenging others and ourselves.

It is important to have a safe space to do truth telling.

It is challenging to balance Truth Telling and hubris

Being asked to "tell the truth" is not always what colleagues or family want to actually hear.

Brief closing comments Robert.

Announcements and Goodbye.

Thanks.