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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — September 5, 2024**

**Bard College at Simon's Rock to Co-Host 2024 Early College Conference**

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA— The Massachusetts Alliance for Early College and Bard College at Simon's Rock will co-host a conference for current and prospective Early College faculty.

The day-long conference, held Friday, September 20th, will feature sessions led by current Western Massachusetts-based Early College faculty and administrators and include interactive workshops on pedagogy and practice and classroom visits. The event will provide Early College educators with connection to a broader community and facilitate the sharing of promising practices in pedagogy, classroom practices, student supports and program delivery across the Early College partnership.

The agenda includes a session to allow educators to feature and share lesson plans, projects, teaching materials and novel course designs they have used in their Early College courses with a wider audience. The goals of this session are to increase student and educator access to innovative, meaningful curriculum and foster a community of sharing for Early College educators.

Attendees will also participate in panel discussions surrounding topics such as Early College in Context: Fostering Success and Building Community in Early College Classrooms, Self-Determination Theory: Creating an Environment of Competence, Connection, and Autonomy, and Perspectives from the Field: Sharing Theory and Effective Practice for Early College Students.

"That there are 55 Early College Programs in Massachusetts designated between 2018 and the present illustrates both the strength of the Massachusetts Early College Initiative and the staying power of the Early College movement," said Knox. "It also shows that the time is right for thoughtful and intentional efforts to build community among these partnerships, especially among the staff, teachers, and professors that are now working together in new ways or may be interested in becoming part of an Early College team. We're thrilled to work with the

Alliance with the hope of building and strengthening this emerging community, especially in Western Massachusetts. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone to campus on September 20.”

Early College instructors may be eligible for stipend to cover their time. To learn more, email Marissa Cole at [marissa@ma4ec.org](mailto:marissa@ma4ec.org) or Ken Knox at [kknox@simons-rock.edu](mailto:kknox@simons-rock.edu) and register here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzT9J4MK\\_0hiClOThVbzEhJCdaWONa3G5OuAPN94x4lsBfrQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzT9J4MK_0hiClOThVbzEhJCdaWONa3G5OuAPN94x4lsBfrQ/viewform)

Registration closes on Friday, September 13.

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### **About Simon’s Rock**

[Bard College at Simon’s Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon’s Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review’s *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon’s Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock](#) is the nation’s first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon’s Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students’ future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

[The Bard Queer Leadership Project](#) (BQLP) is a revolutionary, new Bachelor of Arts degree program designed for, and by, LGBTQIA+ college students to elevate LGBTQIA+ students and college graduates into leadership roles in school and across the workforce while serving as a space for actualizing educational practices designed for students to thrive. The centerpiece of BQLP is a four year dual major B.A. degree combining Queer Leadership with a second academic field.

For more information, visit [simons-rock.edu](http://simons-rock.edu) and [bardacademy.simons-rock.edu](http://bardacademy.simons-rock.edu)

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