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Bard Queer Leadership Program (BQLP) Launches ‘Leading Queer’ Podcast Series

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA— The Simon’s Rock Bard Queer Leadership Program’s “Leading Queer” premiered its first three episodes this month.

Beginning in April 2024, the monthly "Leading Queer" podcast is part of the BQLP's efforts to showcase queer leaders from diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, career paths and fields of interest. According to BQLP Director Dr. Carla Stephens, “Our guests are models and provoke areas of inquiry for our students through storytelling about their lived experience, intellectual exploration, career paths, and visions for the future. We host guest leaders on campus for the BQLP Queer Leaders Vision Forums and hope to impact a wider audience with the monthly podcast that we are working on expanding to both Amazon and Apple podcast platforms in addition to Spotify. It is really important for queer youth, and everyone, to know that there are queer leaders all around, clearing a pathway and tapping on the rainbow ceiling.”

The first episode features attorney, educator, and consultant Dr. Joel A. Davis Brown, Esq., followed by composer and pianist, Joy Redmond, composer of “Hairpiece,” a one-act opera about gender expression with a non-binary character in the second episode, a third episode featuring Tech Entrepreneur, creator of the online Sex Education platform, O.School, and Simon’s Rock alumni Andrea Barrica, and the fourth episode centering around interviews with PA Representative Malcolm Kenyatta. All episodes are hosted by the team of Dr. Stephens, Provost John Weinstein, and Center for Equity, Inclusion and Community Program Manager Kirsten Keels, and supported by Senior Instructional Technologist Monk Schane-Lyndon.

Listen to the first three episodes on [Spotify](#), [Amazon](#), and [Apple Music](#).

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 and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu

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