

# Lock Haven University

## Official Release

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### What can the arts teach us? LHU music professor to speak at inaugural TEDx event in Williamsport

Leaders in business, education and the community—what do they all have in common? According to Lock Haven University’s Eddie Severn, all sectors of the community have much to learn from the arts.



On Saturday, November 26, Dr. Severn will be one of the guest speakers at a first-ever event in Williamsport. Over 100 invited guests will assemble at the Community Theatre League to hear presentations on the theme of “Rethinking Community.” Dr. Severn, who is assistant professor of music, director of Jazz Studies and an internationally noted jazz trumpeter, will speak on “What the Arts Can Teach Us.”

The event is the inaugural TEDxWilliamsport program—a local, self-organized event under the TED program. TED is a small non-profit devoted to “ideas worth spreading.” The purpose of TED is to “foster learning, inspiration and wonder—and to provoke conversations that matter.” TEDx (the x indicates an independently organized event) is designed “to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level.”

Organizers of the TEDxWilliamsport event are hoping to have a program annually. The November 26 event will, like all TED events, be videoed and posted on TED’s main website <http://www.ted.com.tedx>

Severn is a strong believer in the arts as an essential part of education and business. In 2010 he completed a year as Artist in Residence at Loyalsock High School as part of the nationwide TAP (Teacher Artist Partnership) program. The TAP program, said Severn, “puts the arts at the heart of the educational experience.” He added, “I’d really like to see the philosophy of TAP adopted everywhere.” The arts, he says, develop our problem-solving abilities, whereas “conventional thinking brings conventional results.” One of his goals is “to help people in the corporate world improve their problem-solving and their performance.”

On November 8, Severn will be in Ann Arbor, Michigan doing a presentation for the Lead Institute on culture change within business organizations. “Using various kinds of music,” he said, “I am able to help clients understand and identify in which cultures their business models currently reside, and develop strategies to move their organizations into different cultures to improve productivity and performance.” More information on the Lead Institute is available at <http://leadinstitute.com>

A resident of Williamsport, Severn frequently performs in Lock Haven, State College and Williamsport, as well as various venues internationally. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Salford in Manchester, England. His website is [eddie-severn.com](http://eddie-severn.com)

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