



### **About the APS Community Reading Program:**

The APS Community Reading Program is designed to support your transition to Brockport and the broader community. It will introduce you to college-level learning and challenge you to consider new perspectives and world views. Investing your time and energy in this program will help you establish a strong foundation for a successful future in the classroom and in the Brockport community.

### **Summer Assignment Overview:**

Each of us has come to Brockport with a story. That story includes the obstacles we've overcome, the triumphs we've celebrated, and the influence of our family and friends. Your time at Brockport will be an influential kickoff to the next phase of your life that is full of passion, meaningful relationships, and life lessons learned.

As a community, we will have many opportunities to hear, learn from and share stories. To help, we will be reading from [Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work](#) by Dave Isay throughout the semester. Although these storytellers may be strangers to you, we hope that through their stories you can find inspiration and connections to your own experiences.

Please take some time to read the four stories below from [Callings](#).

- [The Story of Ayodeji, English Teacher – page 169](#) - Finding a passion for teaching, learning and helping as a way to overcome personal struggle.
- [The Story of Noramay, From Factory to the Classroom – page 77](#) - Everyone's road looks different, but once you find your path, you work as hard as you need to in order to accomplish your goals and maybe even inspiring those around you.
- [The Story of Ronald McNair, Overcoming and Blazing Trails – page 36](#) – The world is not always a kind and welcoming place. There are certain individuals who have been able to continually move through and beyond obstacles to blaze new trails.
- [The Story of Rich and Nelson, Transforming Experience into Support](#) – page 129 – Each of us has experienced or witnessed some sort of pain or trauma, particularly in the last two years. Some of us are able to take those experiences and use them to help those around them.

This is the first assignment of your Brockport academic career. It is worth up to 10% of your final grade in your Academic Planning Seminar (GEP 100/120/125, or DCC 100). **The assignment is due on the first day your class.**



### **Assignment Details - Tell your story**

These stories share common themes:

- Overcoming adversity
- Finding passion and perseverance
- Relying on others as a way to help yourself be successful
- Helping others and building community

**Using these stories and themes, please complete a two-page essay (12 pt. font, double-spaced), responding to both prompts:**

- *Please select a theme from above and reflect on an experience in your life that relates to this theme. Describe the experience, what you learned, and how that has shaped who you are today.*
- *Please select a story from the collection that connected with you and explain why. How does this story relate to your own life and experiences?*

This is your first assignment as a Brockport student, so it is important to set the tone for your academic career by doing your best and reaching out for help if you need it. Remember, this assignment is due on the first day of your Academic Planning Seminar class.