

To our ESU campus,

A highlight of our One Book, One Campus program this term will be a visit to ESU by the author, Wes Moore. He will speak to our campus November 19. Read your book, and join your campus -- participate in at least one of the 10 Wednesday evening events that are going on this term. What are they like?

Last Wednesday eighty students gathered for the One Book evening and encountered several meaningful surprises. Two of faculty from the English Department, Jeff Hotz and Cynthia Leenerts, crafted a Public Reading that honored both "One Book" and "One Campus." They first introduced students to Lectio Divina, the four-part practice of meditative scripture reading associated with the Benedictine monks. Dr. Leenerts proposed the practice as relevant for any significant literature, and she invited the students to apply aspects of the practice as they listened to the Wes Moore passages read aloud. For the second part of the evening Jeff Hotz introduced surprise guest reader, Richard Franzo. Many of us recognized him as the manager of the convenience store in our Student Center. He has written a memoir, soon to be in publication, chronicling his ordeal to survive a brain tumor, not once, but twice. He read passages of fear and transformations. Thanks to our imaginative faculty, students present on this one evening engaged both themes of the One Book, One Campus movement – deeper reading and a more unified community.

This Wednesday our event (7PM in the Kurtz Lecture Hall in the Moore Biology Bldg) will be led by Uriel Trujillo, who directs the Upward Bound program at ESU. He shared with me his plans: The book *The Other Wes Moore* will serve as a tool in a character study to discuss issues of poverty, wealth, and educational and career opportunity, as well as, issues of family, community and relationships. We will review how the story illustrates the responsibility and consequences of personal decision-making and how institutions both bestow material entitlements for selective groups of people and neglect to serve other segments of people. Using concepts from social science, humanities, and personal experience, we will explore themes in the book to raise our awareness about identity, cultural capital, social inequality, and ideas that reinforce our collective definitions of success in American society.

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