



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ADVISORY – Friday, February 8, 2019
Fargo Public School District #1

STUDENT AUTHORS SHARE THEIR IMMIGRANT STORIES & POEMS AT PUBLIC READ-ALOUD EVENT

The stories tell of living through often terrifying situations and making monumental life changes.

WHAT: *Journey to America: Narrative Short Stories & Poems*
WHEN: **Tuesday, February 12, 2019** from **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
WHERE: Prairie Rose Room, Memorial Union, NDSU Campus, Fargo
CONTACT: **Leah Juelke**, English Learners Language Arts instructor at South High School, 701.446.2055
or juelkej@fargo.k12.nd.us for more information.

For the fifth year, refugee and immigrant English Learner (EL) students from Fargo South High School will present their Journey to America stories. Leah Juelke's EL English 4 class at Fargo South High School will present a public reading on Tuesday, February 12 about their journey to the United States. This year's presentation will begin with an opening speech from special guest Mandy Manning, the 2018 National Teacher of the Year. Presentations encompass the stories of 20 students from all over the world.

During their English classes, students at Fargo South High School wrote and published nonfiction narrative short stories about their journeys as refugees or immigrants to America. During Juelke's English Learner English 4 classes, students were inspired to document their own journey after meeting Rwandan Genocide survivor, Daniel Trust, and other refugee and immigrant community members. During the writing phase, students drafted their stories and went through multiple editing workshops to create a finished product with the help of university students and community members. Students collaborated online with native English-speaking students at Buhler High School in Kansas during the editing phase. In addition to stories, a poem by each student and a picture of their art work are featured in the book. Educators from the RACE exhibit at the MN Science Museum held a workshop to introduce the students to poetry. During the project, the students visited the Plains Art Museum and created a canvas painting that depicted their journey, which will be on display during the reading.

Free copies of the published books will be available at the reading. You can also read the e-book versions at www.ellfargosouth.weebly.com

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