

For Immediate Release

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AWARD WINNING AUTHOR KEVIN POWERS TO GIVE A READING AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE APRIL 15

Ucross, Wyoming – April 10, 2018 – Ucross Foundation, Sheridan College, and The Student Veterans of America (SVA) at Sheridan College are pleased to co-host acclaimed writer Kevin Powers for a reading, discussion, and book signing of his novel *The Yellow Birds* on **Sunday, April 15 from 2 – 3 p.m.** in the Whitney Academic Center W153. This event is free and open to the public.



Kevin Powers was born and raised in Richmond, VA. In 2004 and 2005 he served with the U.S. Army in Mosul and Tal Afar, Iraq. He studied English at Virginia Commonwealth University after his honorable discharge and received an M.F.A. in Poetry from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. Winner of the 2013 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction, Powers will be in residence at Ucross in April.

Praised as a “remarkable first novel” by *The New York Times*, and “harrowing, inexplicably beautiful, and utterly, urgently necessary” by writer Ann Patchett, *The Yellow Birds* is a powerful account of friendship and loss. It tells the story of twenty-one-year-old Private Bartle and eighteen-year-old Private Murphy who cling to life as their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city in Al Tafari, Iraq in Fall 2004.

Sheridan College’s Chapter of the Student Veterans of America will co-sponsor this event and provide up to 30 complimentary copies of Powers’ book to veterans who attend. Copies for the general public will be available for purchase, courtesy of Sheridan Stationery Books and Gallery.

The reading is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: Creating Humanities Communities along the Hemingway Highway, a multi-year initiative that explores Hemingway’s continuing relevance, both in contemporary literature and as an icon. Sheridan College partners in this NEH Grant include the Wyoming Humanities Council, Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research and Ucross Foundation.

Upcoming NEH Hemingway Highway events with other distinguished writers, including Sigrid Nunez, will take place over the summer. The public opening of events for the grant will take place Sept. 6-8, 2018. Events include the performance of Carol Hemingway’s play, “Hemingway on Stage”, and a gala at the Sheridan Inn featuring Hemingway cocktail historian, Phil Greene.

Ucross Foundation has partnered with the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction since 1995. The award was founded in 1976 by Mary Hemingway, the wife of Ernest Hemingway, to honor his legacy. Each year, the award winner, two finalists and two honorable mentions are invited for one-month residencies at Ucross. More than sixty writers have come to Wyoming through this literary collaboration, intended to support emerging writers at a crucial time in their writing careers. The partnership was conceived by Annie Proulx, who was a Ucross trustee at the time, after she had served as a judge for the award. The annual ceremony for the PEN/Hemingway award takes place each spring at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston. The award is administered by PEN America Boston, part of PEN America, a worldwide community of writers celebrating creative expression and defending the liberties that make them possible.

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