

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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J. Sargeant Reynolds  
Community College



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## J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Black History Month forum to feature activist, author, MTV Personality Kevin Powell

**RICHMOND, Va.** (January 7, 2010)—Kevin Powell, activist, award-winning author, and cast member of the inaugural season of MTV's *The Real World*, will speak on the topic "Living in a Multicultural America" at JSRCC on February 4 at 7 p.m. in the Lipman Auditorium on the Parham Road Campus. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the JSRCC Multicultural Enrichment Council.

Powell is widely considered one of America's leading political and cultural voices in these early years of the 21st century. Born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, Powell is the product of a single mother led household, extreme poverty, fatherlessness, and violence. In spite of these harsh circumstances, he studied at Rutgers University in New Jersey and he has become one of the most prolific and respected writers and leaders of his generation. He is the author or editor of 10 books, including his newest, *Open Letters to America*, a collection of essays that examine American leadership, politics, and various social issues in the era of President Barack Obama. Additionally, Powell's writings have appeared in a range of publications including *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Essence*, *Ebony*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vibe*, where he was a senior writer for several years documenting, most famously, the life and times of the late Tupac Shakur.

As an activist, Powell has worked on a range of concerns, including voter registration, Hurricane Katrina relief, education, the environment, and eradicating poverty. As an extension of his activism work, Powell also routinely does college, corporate, and community lectures across America and internationally. He is a frequent presence on television and radio, offering his commentary on a range of issues, including on *Oprah* where he was a part of the national conversation on domestic violence and how men can help to end the assault on women and girls. Powell is not only a writer and activist, but also a business owner, and he has a particularly keen interest in community development and incubating small and medium-sized American businesses. Finally, a longtime and proud resident of Brooklyn, New York, Kevin Powell was a Democratic candidate for Congress in Brooklyn in 2008.

Serving nearly 20,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

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