**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kimberly Graff Zimmer

Phone: 518-797-3949

Email: director@rensselaervillelibrary.org

**PBS DOCUMENTARY “AMERICAN CREED”**

**SCREENS JULY 28, 2019 AT CAREY INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL GOOD**

**Rensselaerville, NY –** Rensselaerville Library, the Carey Institute for Global Good and the NY Writers Institute are hosting a free screening and discussion of the PBS documentary “American Creed” at Carey Institute for Global Good’s Guggenheim Pavilion on July 28, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

The screening will be followed by a community conversation facilitated by Paul Grondahl of the New York State Writers Institute, mirroring the type of conversation Rice and Kennedy have in the film—one designed to engage Americans in reflection and dialogue about their own part in the American story, and in acting to shape that story for the better.

Rensselaerville Library’s Director Kim Zimmer said, “this program will provide the space to bring our various backgrounds, life experiences and points of view together to explore the questions integral to our democracy while demonstrating how an audience with a wide range of beliefs can come together and respectfully discuss the reasons for different interpretations. We anticipate that the notes captured during the discussions will encourage and support future living conversations or activities in Rensselaerville.”

In the documentary film “American Creed,” former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David M. Kennedy come together from different points of view to investigate the idea of a unifying American creed. Their spirited inquiry frames the stories of citizen-activists striving to realize their own visions of America’s promise across deepening divides.

For example, baseball manager Joe Maddon brings residents of his Pennsylvania hometown together after a controversial immigration ordinance threatens to tear them apart. In Seattle, civic entrepreneur Eric Liu brings community leaders together in spite of their political differences to solve problems. Mark Meckler, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots and Joan Blades, founder of MoveOn.org, meet in her living room and form an unexpected bond.

At the heart of this film, Rice and Kennedy lead a moving discussion with first generation college students about the question: what does it mean to be American today?

**“American Creed”** is a co-production of Citizen Film and WTTW Chicago and was made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as part of American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen. The community conversation is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities, The American Library Association, Citizen Film, Facing History and Ourselves and The National Writing Project.

More information is available at [www.americancreed.org](http://www.americancreed.org).

**AMERICAN CREED COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PARTNERS:**

**The American Library Association** is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library’s role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit [ala.org](http://www.ala.org/).

**CONTACT:** Colleen Barbus, [cbarbus@ala.org](mailto:cbarbus@ala.org)

**Citizen Film** is a nonprofit production company dedicated to crafting documentaries with care and dignity. Citizen Film’s collaborations between filmmakers, grassroots organizations and civic institutions have been featured at America’s most prestigious venues and presented on television. For more information, visit [citizenfilm.org](http://www.citizenfilm.org/).

**CONTACT:** Jack Sample, [jack@citizenfilm.org](mailto:jack@citizenfilm.org)

**Facing History and Ourselves** is an international education network that engages students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry.Just as the film frames America’s promise, Facing History hopes to inspire young people to engage deeply in a conversation about who we are, and who we want to be. For more information, visit [facinghistory.org](mailto:facinghistory.org)

**The National Writing Project** envisions a future where every person is a civic writer, engaged learner, and active participant in an interconnected world. NWP is providing conversation facilitation in many parts of the country, and inviting high school students to participate. On[**American Creed: Writing Our Future,**](http://writingourfuture.nwp.org/americancreed/pages/home) NWP's Flagship Youth Publishing Site for the **AMERICAN CREED** Public Engagement Campaign, students respond to questions about ideals and identity through writing, media and art.

**CONTACT:** Christina Cantrill, [ccantrill@nwp.org](mailto:ccantrill@nwp.org)

**The Carey Institute for Global Good**  is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2012 by Wm. Polk Carey and is dedicated to building a strong, educated and just society. We provide education, tools and resources to practitioners of the global good to help them succeed. We put practitioners first—teachers, journalists, farmers—because we know that they have the power to change their communities and inspire others to do the same.

**Rensselaerville Library** works to preserve a comfortable historical gathering place that is open, free and inviting. We strive to awaken and promote a life-long love of reading and learning by fostering personal connections and providing access to a stimulating variety of texts, technology and programming.

**###**