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Lackawanna welcomes author, Purple Heart recipient Oct. 17

SCRANTON, Pa. - Lackawanna College will welcome author, United States Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient Bryan Anderson to its Scranton campus on Thursday, Oct. 17, as part of the College’s annual Lackawanna Reads initiative.

Anderson’s “No Turning Back: One Man’s Inspiring True Story of Courage, Determination, and Hope” was co-written with David Mack and selected for the College’s 2013 program, which focuses on creating a unified social and academic experience for incoming freshman.

“We chose ‘No Turning Back’ this semester because we wanted to read an inspirational memoir,” explained Lackawanna College Academic Development Chair Christine Kiehart. “It is important to share his message with our college community, especially our veteran students. Mr. Anderson shares with the reader very intimate and personal details of his experience with a positive and encouraging attitude. “

The College invites members of the public to hear Anderson speak from noon to approximately 1:15 p.m. in the Theater at Lackawanna College on Oct. 17. Admission is free, and seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A book signing will follow in the main lobby of Angeli Hall, 501 Vine St., Scranton.

Video equipment will not be allowed in the theater during Anderson’s public remarks.

Anderson, a Chicago native, enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 2001 and served two tours of duty in Iraq, attaining the rank of Sergeant in the Military Police. On Oct. 23, 2005, while serving in Baghdad, he was injured by an improvised explosive device that resulted in the loss of both of his legs and his left hand. He is one of the few triple amputees to have survived his injuries in Iraq.

His memoir, which was released in November 2011, shares his story of survival and his effort to transform the tragedy into something that propelled his life forward. Anderson is also the spokesperson for Quantum Rehab, a division of Exeter, Pa.-based Pride Mobility Products, and USA Cares, a non-profit veterans’ organization headquartered in Radcliff, Kent.

While on campus, Anderson is also expected to meet privately with the College’s physical therapy assistant and veteran students.

For more information on this event, please contact Kiehart at (570) 504-8097 or kiehartc@lackawanna.edu.