



Office of the Vice President for
Student and Educational Services
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Dear Colleagues,

Three years ago, I invited Brent Scarpo to our campus to speak to our first year students. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made as an educator. Let me tell you why.

Brent has presented three programs on our campus: his award-winning documentary, *Journey to a Hate-free Millennium*, "Why Do You Hate Me?" and his "Road to Hollywood" program. His programs have had a profound impact on our students. It is why we keep bringing him back to do more programs as part of our first-year experience course. He is one of those rare speakers that you can bring to campus with absolute confidence that he is going to connect with students at a very profound level. His programs encourage young people to reflect on what is fueling their need to feel better about themselves at the expense of others, and provide students considerable insight into why they may be engaging in behavior that is self-destructive. The following are typical comments from our students who attended Brent's programs last fall:

I attend Frostburg State University as a sophomore, and I would like to thank you for the amazing presentation this evening. I attended "Why Do You Hate Me?" last year as a freshman and absolutely loved the program. When I found that he was returning this year I was thrilled and attended again, this time dragging my boyfriend along. Once again I was amazed, and my boyfriend gained a lot from the program as well. I think that what Mr. Scarpo does is amazing and I only hope others were as moved as my boyfriend and I were. Thank you once again!

I will never be able to express in this email how much it truly touched me. I am a very judgmental and racist person. To be honest I did not want to attend the program. However my girlfriend (wonderful girlfriend) urged me to come along with her. She attended the program last year and thought it was wonderful. After attending "Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium," I thought a lot about my actions and thoughts toward other people. I thought to myself how rude and selfish I have been. I hope that this feeling will continue to stay with me for the rest of my life. I believe that one person can make a difference. I related his program to the movie "Pay it Forward." Thank you for bringing to campus a man who can pass the spark along. I will do my best to keep it going.

As educators, we hope to make a difference in the lives of our students. Sometimes we do this directly through the contact that we have with them. At other times, our influence is through those individuals and programs we present to our students. Brent Scarpo has become a valued colleague because of the difference he has made in the lives of our students. I encourage you to invite him to your campus. You will find him to be a wonderful educational partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas L. Bowling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "B".

Thomas L. Bowling
Associate Vice President for
Student and Educational Services