

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 7/12/2023**

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### **TEDxBradenton speakers bring ideas worth sharing**

**(July 12, 2023) Bradenton, FL** --- Event organizers shared three additional names of people who will be giving TED Talks at the upcoming TEDxBradenton conference happening Friday, September 29 at State College of Florida's Bradenton campus.

- Natalie Baird-King, Esq., BCS, Owner and Managing Member at Natalie Baird Mediations, PA
- Mitch Lomazov, Executive Director of Client Development & Certified Coach · EXCELLence Performance
- Omar Edwards, Associate Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives with the School District of Manatee County

Each speaker will prepare a talk about an idea they have that relates to this year's theme "Writing the Future." Organizer Evelyn Almodovar explained that the theme was inspired by the idea that "we can all be creators of a better future for ourselves, our families, and our communities. The world is in constant change, but we are the authors of how we respond to that change."

An important feature of both the 2022 TEDxBradenton as well as this year's event will be the video recordings of the talks. Once the event is finished and the videos are edited and uploaded, TED reviews each to ensure adherence to guidelines about content and quality.

According to Almodóvar, approximately 40 percent of videos submitted from TEDx events around the world are approved and uploaded to the global TEDx YouTube channel. What was that rate for Bradenton? "Fortunately," Almodóvar answered, "all of the videos submitted by TEDxBradenton in 2022 were accepted and published."

Publishing these videos on the TEDx YouTube channel, with its 38.5 million subscribers, matters because TED is fundamentally a knowledge sharing platform that is available for free across the world any time.

The videos generated from TEDxBradenton "live on" well after the event and cross peoples' paths who are interested in our region and the topic of the talk. Event organizers pointed to the reach of their 2022 videos: "These talks have collectively garnered more than 16,000 views, a number that grows by 10% every two months as more people discover TEDxBradenton."

The TEDxBradenton YouTube channel has a playlist of the 2022 speakers' 14 videos ranging from 10 to 15 minutes each and can be found at: [YouTube.com/@TEDxBradenton3825](https://www.youtube.com/@TEDxBradenton3825).

Anyone interested in learning more or buying tickets when they are available should stay tuned to the TEDxBradenton website (TEDxBradenton.com) as well as social media at platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn (@TEDxBradenton).

Speaker bios are continued below:

### **Natalie Baird-King**

Natalie Baird-King is a survivor of childhood abuse and domestic violence. As a result of a boyfriend breaking her arm over 30 years ago, she pivoted her degree to be a dentist to becoming an attorney. She has spent much of her life and career educating others about domestic abuse and the impacts it has on children, teenagers, adolescents, and adults. She has been a speaker in over 70 keynotes, seminars, workshops, and panel members, many related to education and her life's story about domestic abuse.

Natalie is a Board Certified Marital and Family Law attorney who has who has been practicing for over 20 years. She is highly respected in her field and has litigated hundreds of family law matters. Natalie has also devoted her practice to family law mediations and has mediated over a thousand family law cases and assisted families to resolve their cases versus the choosing to litigate their cases.

Natalie has recently authored her book *Forgiving Unforgivable-The 4 Essential Secrets to Overcome Trauma, Stand Empowered, and Step into Purpose* which is due Summer 2023. She is known as an expert at forgiveness. Through her journey, she has discovered the key to freedom through forgiveness.

### **Mitch Lomazov**

Mitch is the Executive Director of Client Development and a Certified Coach at EXCELLENce Performance, an award-winning corporate training and leadership development company. He is the current chairman of the Manatee Chamber's young professional leadership committee and a graduate Leadership Manatee.

Mitch's passion for speaking on communication, confidence building, and personal development has led him to be recognized as one of Sarasota's 35 under 35 by SRQ Magazine and a Young Professional of the Year under 40 in Manatee County. Mitch dedicates his time to helping young professionals lead lives at their utmost potential and equipping them with the skillsets to pursue their professional and personal goals.

### **Omar Edwards**

Xavier "Omar" Edwards is a native of Manatee County. During his 23-year career as an educator, he has served the students and parents of Manatee County as a Counselor, Program Manager, middle and high school Principal, Assistant Director and Currently the Associate Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives.

Mr. Edwards was educated in the public schools of Manatee County, graduating from Southeast High School in 1993. Upon graduation, Mr. Edwards received a fully paid scholarship to play football for the Ole Miss Rebels at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi. While at the University of Mississippi, Mr. Edwards earned two Bachelor's Degrees - Bachelor of Public Administration (1997) and Bachelor of Social Work (1998) degrees from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. Additionally, he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, which began his commitment to public service through various projects of the fraternity in the local community in Oxford.

Mr. Edwards began his career in education as a Career Counselor and later as Program Manager for a program for high school students at Manatee Technical Institute. This opportunity inspired him to pursue a Masters' Degree in Educational Leadership from National Louis University in Tampa Florida.

Mr. Edwards is a member of Rogers Community United Methodist Church in Bradenton Florida. He is a member of several organizations; Manatee Branch of NAACP, Life Member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Immediate pass Polemarch of the Sarasota Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc; Manatee Chamber of Commerce Workforce and Educational Committee, Boys and Girls Club of Manatee Corporate Board Member, and the Immediate Past President of the Manasota Pan-Hellenic Council.

Mr. Edwards' professional affiliations include the Association for Curriculum Development (ASCD) and Advanced Ed. Accreditation Committee, as a team member in the accreditation process for schools. He was also selected to serve as a member of the original Strategic Planning Team for the School District of Manatee County.

Mr. Edwards believes it was his upbringing that has gotten him to where he is in life. He was taught by his mother who was taught by her grandmother, that you treat people how you want to be treated; that you do what is right even though it may not be what is popular; and that you look to the hills from which come your help – for your help comes from the Lord.

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### **About TED**

TED is on a mission to discover and spread ideas that spark imagination, embrace possibility and catalyze impact. Our organization is devoted to curiosity, reason, wonder and the pursuit of knowledge — without an agenda. We welcome people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world and engagement with others, and we invite everyone to engage with ideas and activate them in your community.

TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged. Today it spans a multitude of worldwide communities and initiatives exploring everything from science and business to education, arts and global issues. Aside from the hundreds of TED Talks curated from our annual conferences and published on [TED.com](https://www.ted.com), we produce original podcasts, short video series, [animated TED-Ed lessons](#) and TV programs that are translated into more than 100 languages and distributed via partnerships around the world. Each year, more than 3,000 independently run [TEDx events](#) bring people together to share ideas and bridge divides in communities on every continent. Through the [Audacious Project](#), TED has helped catalyze nearly \$3 billion in funding for projects that seek to make the world more beautiful, sustainable and just. In 2020, TED launched [Countdown](#), an initiative to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis and

mobilize a movement for a net-zero emission future. View a full list of TED's [many programs and initiatives](#).

TED is owned by a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation. Our aim is to help create a future worth pursuing for all.

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***ABOUT TEDx, x = independently organized event***

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)