

EASTERN LITERARY FESTIVAL WELCOME REMARKS

DR. NÚÑEZ

OCTOBER 13, 2023

Good morning! I am happy to welcome all of you to the 2023 Eastern Literary Festival.

Judging from the size of our audience today, one might think that this festival has been taking place for the past 50 years. We are expecting more than 200 students from nearly a dozen high schools in Eastern Connecticut.

Actually, this is only the **second** year for the Eastern Literary Festival! English Professor Daniel Donaghy created the festival, based on a similar event that takes place in Pennsylvania.

Professor Donaghy and his colleague Professor Christopher Torockio have been the primary organizers of the festival, and they have created an exciting program for our high school guests.

I wish to congratulate Professor Donaghy, Professor Torockio and their colleagues for all their diligent work to put today's program together. They are passionate about celebrating student voices, and the Eastern Literary Festival now serves as a venue in which student voices may be heard, hopefully for many years to come.

I also wish to welcome today's keynote - writer and visual artist Aaron Caycedo-Kimura. We are thrilled to have you on our campus, and we are looking forward to your message to the aspiring writers visiting with us today. Thank you for being here and for playing such a significant role in this year's festival.

The teachers in our audience are also deserving of our thanks, for bringing your students to participate in today's festival.

You are providing your students with opportunities and experiences that have the potential to be life changing. As your students interact with students from other schools, they will all experience a rich diversity of thoughts and ideas, something that will serve them well throughout their lives.

And finally, I want to thank the students who are here today. Yes, you are going to be learning about writing, but in the process, you are gaining so much more.

You are delving further into the process by which you create, organize, and express your thoughts. You are recognizing that your thoughts and ideas are worthy of sharing with others.

