

# They Not Like Us: Men of Color Impacting Social Change

## Friday, October 18, 2024

Germantown Campus | 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876



### Keynote Speaker

**Kevin Powell** is one of the most celebrated political, cultural, literary, and hip-hop voices in America. He is a prolific writer and a GRAMMY-nominated poet. Kevin is a heavily sought-after public speaker who has lectured in all 50 states and on five continents. A native son of Jersey City, New Jersey, the human and civil rights activist has been engaged with nearly every democratic movement of the latter 20th and early 21st centuries, either as a servant-leader,

a behind-the-scenes advocate, or in a leadership position with fellow writers, artists, and change agents.

Kevin was raised by a single mother in abject poverty. At the tender age of three, his mom introduced him to the importance of reading—and that persistent encouragement propelled Kevin beyond his violent and impoverished surroundings. He enrolled at Rutgers University through the Educational Opportunity Fund, an initiative created during the Civil Rights Movement to benefit youth who otherwise lacked access to higher learning.

As an author, Kevin has written 16 books, including *Grocery Shopping with My Mother*, his third volume of poetry; *The Education of Kevin Powell*, his critically acclaimed autobiography, which is being adapted for the screen; and his most recent title, *The Kevin Powell Reader*, which collects over 30 years of his literary output.

Currently, he is working on a biography of the iconic rapper and actor Tupac Shakur, who he interviewed several times as a founding senior writer for Quincy Jones' groundbreaking Vibe magazine. A vegan, two-time New York City Marathon runner, bicyclist, skateboarder, student of yoga, avid hiker, and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Kevin is a proud and longtime resident of Brooklyn, New York. He is happily married to Evangeline Lawson, photographer, filmmaker, writer, and his equal partner in every way.

### Sessions, Forums, and Thought-Provoking Student Panel

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Students who register and attend will enter a drawing for student success incentives.