

**Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA)
to Host Immigration Detention Conference**

Bennington, VT: Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) will host its annual [Incarceration in America conference](#) from **May 11 - 12** around the topic of immigration detention. All events are free, open to the public, and will take place in the CAPA Symposium on Bennington's campus. [Registration](#) is requested by **May 3**.

The conference begins on **Friday, May 11 at 7 PM** with a keynote address given by **Catherine Tactaquin**, executive director of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

On **Saturday, May 12 from 10:00 - 11:30 AM**, **Julián Lazalde**, civic engagement & policy analyst for the National Immigrant Justice Center, will moderate a panel on **General Trends in Immigration Enforcement**. He is joined by **John Amaya** and **Daniel Ragsdale**, who were part of the Department of Homeland Security under President Obama's administration; **Scott Clark** from ACLU Immigrant Protection Project of Western MA; and **Lauren Kostas** from The Florence Project.

From **11:45 AM - 1:15 PM**, **Khalil Cumberbatch**, associate vice president of policy at The Fortune Society, will moderate a panel on **Immigration Detention and Private Prisons**. He is joined by **Devora Gonzalez** from School of the Americas Watch, **Lauren Kostas** from The Florence Project, and **Kent Mendoza** from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

From **2:00 - 3:30 PM**, **Catherine Tactaquin** will moderate a panel on **Local Government and NGO Involvement**. She is joined by **Devora Gonzalez**, **Jessica Hanson** from the National Immigration Law Center, **Julián Lazalde** from the National Immigrant Justice Center, and **Corey Lazar** from Vera Institute of Justice.

About the Incarceration in America Initiative

The United States has the highest documented rate of incarceration in the world, which reached its peak in 2007 and has been gradually declining since. To continue and accelerate this trend, Bennington College launched the Incarceration in America initiative, which partners with distinguished advocates and providers to offer course curriculum, visiting speakers, theatrical events, think tanks, and conferences focused on developing public policy and political action in the post-tough-on-crime era.

Since the inception of the Incarceration in America initiative in 2014, CAPA has partnered with many organizations doing important work in this field, including JustLeadershipUSA, The Fortune Society, Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, and Housing Plus Solutions. Through this initiative, CAPA has addressed topics as far-reaching as higher education in prisons, the aging incarcerated population, women in prison, how to redefine justice and effect change, immigrant detention and deportation, and alternatives to incarceration.

Incarceration in America: Immigration Detention Conference

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check www.bennington.edu/events for the most up-to-date information. These events are free, open to the public, and take place on [Bennington College's campus](#).

Fri. May 11 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Sat. May 12 | 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

[Incarceration in America: Immigration Detention](#)

CAPA Symposium

This conference will include panels on General Trends in Immigration Enforcement, Immigration Detention and Private Prisons, and Local Government and NGO Involvement.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Located in picturesque Southwestern Vermont, Bennington College holds a distinguished place among American colleges and universities. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education. It is the only college to require that its students spend a term—every year—at work in the world.

Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at bennington.edu.