

**For Immediate Release: October 22, 2015**

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**DORA E. MCQUAID, award-winning poet, activist, speaker and teacher is returning to Penn State University and State College to talk about domestic and sexual violence, healing and empowerment and student activism.**

[State College, PA] – Former Penn State/University Park Campus faculty member and PSU alumna, Dora E. McQuaid, is returning to offer two public events in early November 2015.

With 25 years of experience as an award-winning poet, activist, speaker and teacher, Dora's work embodies the intersections between arts and activism, healing and empowerment and the private and political. Her unique blend of art, emotion and service has earned numerous literary and service awards. Her dedication to addressing sexual and domestic violence through poetry, performance and activism was honored in 2012 by her image replacing that of former Penn State football coach and convicted pedophile, Jerry Sandusky, in the Inspiration Mural by artist Michael Pilato. Dora speaks, performs and publishes internationally. Her groundbreaking collection of poems, *the scorched earth*, documents her journey from victimization to survivorship, through healing from both sexual and domestic violence into empowerment and advocacy. Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*, who wrote the Foreword to this much-expanded Second Edition of *the scorched earth*, calls it "...startling and visionary."

**On Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30 pm at the Penn State University**, Hetzel Union Building, Room 129C Dora will speak about Student Activism and Empowerment, topics which she taught during her time as faculty in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences.

**On Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, Dora and muralist Michael Pilato will speak in front of Dora's image at the Inspiration Mural** at the corner of Heister Street and College Avenue about Personal and Community Response to Sexual and Domestic Violence. Michael will also be placing handprints into the mural of the survivors of sexual violence who are present and would like to be included. Following her talk, **the Student Book Store will host Dora for a book signing of *the scorched earth*** at 330 E. College Avenue, State College.

McQuaid says, "I'm both honored and excited to be returning to the Penn State Campus and State College community to share once again my work with the members of both communities, as I did for the many years that I taught at Penn State and made State College my home."

These events are co-sponsored by the Centre County Women's Resource Center, Children's Advocacy Center, Michael Pilato, Hotel State College, Student Book Store, Peaceful Hearts Foundation, as well as Penn State University's Office of Student Conduct, Residence Life and the University Park Undergraduate Association. **To schedule an interview with Dora in person in State College between 11/2 and 11/9 OR to schedule a phone interview after 10/22, please contact Dora directly at [doramcquaid@gmail.com](mailto:doramcquaid@gmail.com) or 575-613-2947. For more information about Dora and her efforts, please visit: [WWW.DORAMCQUAID.COM](http://WWW.DORAMCQUAID.COM)**

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