

Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference
June 2, Dinner Program Speakers

Ann Peters: Introduction to Dean Gracie Lawson-Borders

Good evening. I hope you're getting to know each other a bit better over dinner and that tonight may be the start of many more conversations and connections between all of us.

I am Ann Peters, the university and community outreach director at the Pulitzer Center.

What that means primarily is that I get to work connecting our wonderful Pulitzer Center grantee journalists with our network of 35 university partners through our Campus Consortium program. We've grown over the years, up from the 6 campuses we began the network with 9 years ago.

Our aim: to bring to campuses primarily in the US such underreported issues we've been addressing here at the Beyond War conference and to engage students and educators more deeply on these matters.

When journalists get to those campuses - we work them hard. It's not just for one lecture and then they are on their way. There are public talks, and class visits and workshops and informal conversations between journalists, faculty and students over meals and over coffee.

There may be a day-long symposium as we've held at Boston University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, or courses we've developed with faculty at Flagler College and the College of William and Mary.

Our partners stretch across disciplines: There are schools of journalism at Missouri, Columbia, Berkeley, and American University, and schools of public health including at the University of Iowa. Liberal arts colleges and two-year community colleges. We're in states from North Carolina to South Dakota.

We are grateful to our campus partners and to our donors, including our Board members who have made possible a number of our Campus Consortium partnerships through their support. We're pleased to note we're joined here tonight by several of our faculty colleagues and more than a dozen current and past student reporting fellows. Among our newest partners are 3 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

I am honored to introduce our next speaker, Gracie Lawson-Borders, dean of Howard University's Cathy Hughes School of Communications. Before coming to Howard, Dean Lawson-Borders was at the University of Wyoming, serving there as an Associate Dean and Professor in Communication and Journalism, and as Director of African American Studies. Her research examines media coverage of minority groups and issues in the media, as well as media management, convergence, and new media.

She is a former journalist who has worked as a reporter and editor at the *Akron Beacon Journal*, the *Oakland Press*, and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Please welcome Dean Lawson-Borders.