



SXSW EDU® ANNOUNCES GLOBAL ADVOCATE DR. ALAA MURABIT, EDUCATION EXPERT JIM SHELTON, AND RENOWNED AUTHOR JESSICA LAHEY FOR THE CLOSING PROGRAM

February 14, 2018, AUSTIN, Texas – The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival announced today an exciting lineup of speakers for the closing program of the 2018 conference and festival. The March 8, 2018 closing program lineup includes global advocate Dr. Alaa Murabit, education expert Jim Shelton, and *New York Times* bestselling author Jessica Lahey who will each provide a keynote on preparing children for success in and out of the classroom.

“Bringing together these powerful voices will further inspire SXSW EDU attendees as they take their newly gained knowledge from the conference back to their classrooms and to their daily lives,” said Greg Rosenbaum, GM of SXSW EDU. “Alaa, Jim, and Jessica provide varying yet complementary perspectives on a child’s well-being and education, from the global view to personalized learning, and individual support. This coupled with tangible, actionable steps will provide attendees with a new lens through which they will see how they can make a difference in the education of a child.”

Dr. Murabit will bring global issues to the forefront in her talk, **“Who Has the Right to Education?”** As a medical doctor and international advocate, Dr. Murabit will present the multitude of external and societal forces that play a role in a child's success in conflict zones. She will address the role that conflict plays in a child's educational opportunities as well as their well-being and human development. Dr. Murabit will propose some pathways forward in today's complex and changing educational landscape.

In **“Amandla: Powering Everyone’s Potential”** Jim Shelton will explore the idea of lifelong learning as a survival skill. In order to create a foundation that ensures a bright future for everyone, we have to broaden the definition of success in education and leverage new science, strategies, and tools to attend to the needs of the whole child and those who serve them. Mr. Shelton brings an unparalleled perspective from the public and private sector on the importance of tailoring education to fit a child’s learning style.

Rounding out the closing program is Jessica Lahey, veteran teacher, education reporter and author of the *New York Times* bestselling book, **The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed**. In her keynote **“Teaching the Gift of Failure”** Jessica will break down the research on motivation, resilience and learning, and will explain how autonomy-supportive parenting and teaching boosts kids' motivation while improving educational outcomes. Ms. Lahey uses personal narrative and humor as she explores the research on extrinsic and intrinsic motivators, praise, and learned helplessness, while offering instruction and assessment methods that promote deep, durable learning, and engagement.

To learn more about the closing program or any other SXSW EDU speakers, please visit the speakers page, at <https://www.sxswedu.com/program/speakers/>

About SXSW EDU

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual four-day event affords registrants open access to engaging sessions, immersive workshops, interactive learning experiences, film screenings, early-stage startups, business opportunities and networking. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 5-8, 2018 in Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit <http://www.sxswedu.com>.

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