



PRESS RELEASE

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**Award-winning author and journalist Denise Kiernan
to deliver 2019 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities**

Charleston, WV – The West Virginia Humanities Council welcomes award-winning author and journalist Denise Kiernan, who will deliver the 2019 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities on Friday, October 4 at 7:00pm, in Ballroom C of the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center. A short Q&A and book signing will follow. The McCreight Lecture is free and open to the public.

Kiernan will be speaking from her book *The Girls of Atomic City*, the true story of young women living in a secret government city built in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains, while unknowingly working on the first atomic bomb. Drawing from primary research as well as interviews with several of the women who worked at the uranium-enrichment site at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Kiernan’s book rescues a remarkable chapter of American history from obscurity.

Over a 20-year writing and journalism career, Denise Kiernan has been published in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Village Voice*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Reader’s Digest*, *Discover* and many more publications. She has also worked in television, serving as head writer for ABC’s “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” during its Emmy award-winning first season, and has produced for media outlets such as *ESPN* and *MSNBC*.

Kiernan’s last two books—*The Last Castle* and *The Girls of Atomic City*—were both instant *New York Times* bestsellers in both hardcover and paperback. *The Last Castle* was also a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller, a finalist for the 2018 Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award, and a finalist for the Southern Book Prize. *The Girls of Atomic City* was also a *Los Angeles Times* and *NPR* bestseller, was named one of Amazon’s “Top 100 Best Books of 2013,” and is now available in seven languages. It also received the 2014 American Political Science

Association's Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for the best book published in the United States on government, politics, or international affairs.

In addition to her primary books, Kiernan has co-authored several popular history titles, including *Signing Their Lives Away*, *Signing Their Rights Away*, and *Stuff Every American Should Know*. Throughout her career she has been a featured guest on many radio and television shows, including NPR's "Weekend Edition," PBS *NewsHour*, MSNBC *Morning Joe* and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. She lives in North Carolina.

The McCreight Lecture in the Humanities, a legacy program of the West Virginia Humanities Council, is a featured event at the 2019 West Virginia Book Festival, which runs October 4-5 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. The Humanities Council is a Charter Presenter of the West Virginia Book Festival.

For more information contact the Humanities Council at 304-346-8500 or visit www.wvhumanities.org.

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