



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Neighborhood Academy Hosts Dr. Tererai Trent:  
World-Renowned Voice for Women's Empowerment and Education**  
*The School's Seventh Speaker Series Event Will Take Place on October 8, 2025.*

**PITTSBURGH, PA – July 14, 2025** – The Neighborhood Academy (TNA), an independent college preparatory school will host its seventh Nancy and Paul O'Neill Speaker Series event on October 8, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. featuring Dr. Tererai Trent – Oprah's "favorite guest of all time" and one of the world's most renowned advocates for women's empowerment and quality education.

Author of the award-winning "The Awakened Woman – Remembering & Reigniting Our Sacred Dreams" (Simon & Schuster), Dr. Trent serves as the president of The Awakened Woman, LLC – a company dedicated to empowering women with the tools to thrive as they achieve their dreams. Dr. Trent also founded the Tinogona Foundation (Tererai Trent International) that supports 14 public schools in rural Zimbabwe.

The event will be held both in-person at the school and virtually via Zoom. The in-person event will take place within The Neighborhood Academy's Hans and Leslie Fleischner Indoor Field. Guests will be served dinner, hear Dr. Trent's presentation, and engage in a live Q&A session. Author's Circle VIP Guests will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Trent in person before the presentation. Virtual attendees will receive admission to Dr. Trent's presentation and may submit questions from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Dr. Trent leads the global fight for quality education for all children and women's rights. She has become a symbol of hope and a testament to the belief that anything is possible.

"We are very excited to welcome internationally renowned author, Dr. Trent, to this special event. It will be a day filled with intellectual discourse as she speaks upon her philosophies with our students in the daytime, and lead a captivating conversation with friends of our school in the evening," said TNA's Head of School, Dr. Anthony P. Williams.

"Dr. Tererai Trent personifies how education can change the trajectory of a student's life. Her belief, ability, and fortitude are an example for all students, but specifically for girls and women internationally, who want to dream big. Her testimony brings girls to the forefront of their world and poses the questions, 'what would happen if you were to dream, and dream big?' Dr. Trent embodies how transcendence can transform you, and how education can reshape the legacy and path of one's entire family line in the most beautiful way." said Shannon Prentiss, TNA's Dean of Student Affairs.



"It is an honor to be part of TNA's Speaker Series featuring Dr. Tererai Trent. Her advocacy for quality education for all directly aligns with TNA's mission, and her passion for empowering females is especially meaningful given all of the exciting things happening with TNA's Middle School for Girls," said Kelly Grote and Courtney Vadnais, co-chairs of the event's Host Committee.

**The Nancy & Paul O'Neill Speaker Series** began in 2013 and is a platform for renowned authors to present and share works that not only describe the Black experience in America, but also challenge all of us to see the world through The Neighborhood Academy's students' eyes.

Previous speakers include Ron Suskind, author of "A Hope of the Unseen"; Isabel Wilkerson, author of "The Warmth of Other Suns"; Margo Lee Shetterly, author of "Hidden Figures"; Mark Whitaker, author of "Smoketown"; Wes Moore, author of "The Other Wes Moore" and "Five Days"; and Anthony Ray Hinton, author of "The Sun Does Shine".

**Event Leading Sponsors** *as of July 11, 2025*

- **Presenting Sponsor:** The Nancy & Paul O'Neill Family
- **Silver Sponsors:** Hunter Associates
- **Bronze Sponsors:** CIBC Bank USA, Joe & Alina Massaro, BNY, Bart & Danica Griffith

**For more information and ticket purchases, visit <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/>. All proceeds benefit student scholarships.**

**About The Neighborhood Academy:**

The Neighborhood Academy provides a holistic college-prep education for students in grades 6-12 whose families demonstrate significant financial need. The Neighborhood Academy is dedicated to developing the minds, bodies and spirits of our students so that they might become fully productive members of our society. 100% of our graduates are accepted to college, and our alumni boast an 81% five-year college graduation rate since 2011.

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