

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**GCC Theatre Arts Instructor Jeanette Farr receives
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Award**

Glendale, CA – Glendale Community College theatre arts instructor and playwright Jeanette Farr received “Distinguished Recognition” under the David Mark Cohen Award category of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program for her play, *Hedda on Fire*.

The National Committee of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival celebrates institutions, productions, and individuals for their determination, adaptability, innovation and experimentation on home campuses nationwide. The play was selected out of several regional entries and national finalists for distinction.

Hedda on Fire was commissioned by California State University Stanislaus for workshop and inclusion in their 2022 season. The play is described as derivative work of Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler, whose protagonist is a descendent of Ibsen’s troubled character with the same name. This Hedda, a bacteriologist helping to solve the climate crisis, is challenged in her relationships post societal collapse, and challenges humans’ responsibility in solving the problem. *“To involve students in the crafting and development of this play was a unique and valuable opportunity. Educational institutions are the perfect place for this kind of discussion about climate change, and theatre allows us to tackle those questions in innovative ways,”* said Farr.

The play received workshop support from Antaeus Theatre Company Playwright’s Lab, Tofte Lake Center under Liz Engelman, and The Playwright’s Union of Los Angeles.

Farr teaches playwriting at Glendale Community College, and chairs the Theatre Arts Department, where she has produced and directed a variety of plays. Her own plays have been produced Off-Off Broadway, at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, and in Singapore and Japan. Her work has been recognized by the Nevada Arts Council, The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

The David Mark Cohen Playwriting Award is one of the few reading awards that is open to faculty and professional playwrights in addition to student works. Award recipients were recognized at the Kennedy Center’s National Festival Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 22, 2023, in the Kennedy Center Family Theatre.

About Glendale Community College

Nestled on a lush hillside in Glendale, California, GCC has served the greater LA Metro region for 95 years. With its smaller, intimate classes, coupled with a dedicated team of instructors, counselors, and staff, the college offers a low cost, high-quality educational experience. GCC has one of the top transfer rates in Los Angeles County due to its commitment to equality, innovation, and an ethic of care for its students. GCC’s three campuses are equipped for in-person and online courses providing students with multiple options for pursuing valuable workforce training, professional development, and lifelong learning.

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