

K-State First Book Author Talk with Dave Isay

October 1, 7:00 p.m. | K-State Student Union

The hourlong lecture will explore themes from “Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work,” the 2026 K-State common read. “Callings” is a collection of stories centered on people who found purpose and meaning in their work through passion, service and perseverance. Free to the public.

2026 Common Book

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and its parent company, Sound Portraits Productions. Over the past two decades, his radio documentary work has won numerous broadcasting awards, including five Peabody awards. Isay has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur Fellowship and a United States Artists Fellowship.

According to the publisher’s website, the book is “told through touching conversations between friends, coworkers and family members. From a mom telling her daughter about her bricklaying career to a father sharing his contributions to the space race as an aeromedical field tester, these stories are poignant and heartfelt intergenerational explorations into the journeys people take to find the jobs they are meant to do.”

