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Simon's Rock to Host the Tenth Annual Think Food Conference in November

thinkFOOD

CULTURE STUDIES SOURCING

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA—Simon's Rock will host the tenth annual ThinkFOOD conference on campus on Saturday, November 4, 2023. This year's conference theme, hosted by the Center for Food and Resilience, will feature panels and workshops on the theme "Making Local Farming Work."

The Center for Food and Resilience is excited to share that this year's keynote speaker will be Ashley Randle, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. A fifth-generation dairy farmer, Ashley Randle was sworn in as the twenty-first Commissioner by Governor Maura T. Healey on March 6, 2023. She is the first woman to lead the Department and assumed the role after having served as Deputy Commissioner/Legislative and Policy Director since October 2018. Randle's full bio can be accessed here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-mdar-commissioner>

"We want to think about how to support farmers in the Berkshires and beyond to create a functional local food system that feeds everyone fairly," shares Professor Maryann Tebben, director of the Center for Food Studies at Simon's Rock. The aim of this conference is to facilitate new perspectives on food, farming, and resiliency. A few examples of workshops and panels include "State and Federal Initiatives for Local Farmers," "Land access for Farmers," "Local Meat Processing," and more.

The conference is free for all students, even those not attending Simon's Rock. Otherwise, tickets are \$25 for access to all sessions, \$15 for half day, or \$10 for keynote only; lunch tickets are \$10. Discount tickets are available; please follow the link to register to request. Many of the days' sessions will also be available via Zoom. For more information, including a day-of schedule, as well as to register for the ThinkFOOD conference, please visit the following link: <https://simons-rock.edu/academics/program-overview/food-studies/thinkfood.php>

About Simon's Rock

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

[The Bard Queer Leadership Project](#) (BQLP) is a revolutionary, new Bachelor of Arts degree program designed for, and by, LGBTQIA+ college students to elevate LGBTQIA+ students and college graduates into leadership roles in school and across the workforce while serving as a space for actualizing educational practices designed for students to thrive. The centerpiece of BQLP is a four year dual major B.A. degree combining Queer Leadership with a second academic field.

For more information, visit simons-rock.edu and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu

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