

CT STATE NORTHWESTERN PRESENTS

MAD RIVER FEST 2026

A day of Celebrating Resilience through Art, Poetry & Community

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th | 3:00-7:30PM
Founders Hall, CT State Northwestern
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Learn more on engage.ctstate.edu/organization/nwmadriver

Join Us For all the events!

3 PM – LIBRARY ROTUNDA (Students Only)

Workshop

A lyrical Lens: Coping with the Contemporary through music with Dr Whitaker, Dean of Students and Faculty

4 PM – THE GALLERY AT FOUNDERS HALL

Exhibition Reception

Janis Stemmermann

4-5 PM – FOUNDERS HALL LOUNGE

Family Friendly Event

Enjoy Live Music and back by popular demand –
The Whey Station, Gourmet Grilled Cheese Food Truck

5-5:30 PM – FOUNDERS HALL AUDITORIUM

Mad River Anthology Launch

Pick up your printed copy!

5:30-7:30 PM – FOUNDERS HALL AUDITORIUM

Main Stage Event

Featuring Antoinette Brim-Bell & Janis Stemmermann
plus Open Mic!



FEATURED GUESTS



Antoinette Brim-Bell
Author & Poet

Antoinette Brim-Bell is Connecticut's 8th State Poet Laureate (2022–2025) and the author of three poetry collections, with work featured in *Poetry Magazine*, *Poem-a-Day*, and numerous journals and anthologies. A Pushcart Prize nominee, Cave Canem Fellow, and interdisciplinary artist, her work spans poetry, criticism, visual art, and performance, including a ballet adaptation presented on the Alvin Ailey stage in New York City.



Janis Stemmermann
Visual Artist

Janis Stemmermann is a visual artist and designer whose interdisciplinary practice spans installation, ceramics, textiles, and printmaking, exploring the space between art, function, and the language of domestic objects and landscape. Her work has been supported by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and exhibited widely in New York and Connecticut, with studios based in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and Sharon, CT.



Special thanks to the Northwestern Community College Foundation for their generous support of this event.

Celebrate Creativity | Support Local Voices | Experience the Arts—Together