



News Release

September 19, 2008

[Nancy Livingston](#)

Public Relations

651-779-3222

Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)

3300 Century Avenue North

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Century College Hosts “Homeless to Harvard” Speaker Liz Murray, Monday, Oct. 6th

Century College will host a talk by “Homeless to Harvard” speaker Liz Murray on Monday, Oct. 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the West Campus Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

Murray plans to share her life story with the audience. It is a stunning tale of triumph over adversity and the importance of dreaming big.

Murray’s childhood was bitterly grim. Her cocaine-addicted parents never kept food in the house, everything was filthy, drugs were everywhere and the government assistance checks were spent before they arrived.

Following the death of her mother, Murray, at age 15, was homeless – living on the streets, riding the subway all night and eating from dumpsters. She often did her homework in hotel hallways. Amidst this pain, Murray imagined that her life could be much better. Through sheer determination, she managed to finish high school and attend Harvard University, where she is completing her degree.

Murray’s story has been made into a movie by Lifetime Television, and she is the recipient of Oprah Winfrey’s first-ever Chutzpah Award. She is currently writing her memoir.

Murray's appearance is part of Century's ongoing Speaker Series, which has brought to the community such notables as Anne Fadiman, Steven Pinker, Sarah Vowell, David Shipler, Stephanie Coontz and Andrew Revkin. This spring, author Elizabeth Kolbert, the author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, Century College's common book selection for 2008-2009, will speak on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the West Campus Theatre. Her appearance is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call Nancy Livingston, Century College community relations and outreach director, at 651-779-3222.