



The Big Read 2010 Comes To PCCC

A National Endowment for the Arts
Grant-Funded Initiative

Revitalizing the Role of Literature in American Culture

PCCC's Featured Literary Selection: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Passaic County Community College (PCCC) has received a \$17,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund The Big Read 2010, an annual nationwide initiative to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. "This is the first time PCCC has been selected as a program participant," said David Bolger, an English professor at PCCC and director of the local Big Read program.

One of 267 nationwide partners in this year's event, PCCC is collaborating with the City of Paterson to present Big Read activities. The Paterson Library, Paterson Museum, and Paterson public school district are all participating and have contributed to increase the project funding to a total of \$35,000.

May is Big Read Month in Paterson Kickoff Event Scheduled for May 1

Paterson Mayor Jose Torres has declared May Big Read Month with a kickoff event scheduled for May 1, 9am – 1 pm at Hayden Heights Veterans Memorial (McBride Avenue) where Mayor Torres will present a proclamation to PCCC. The program also includes featured speaker, poet Charles Johnson, featured guest Colonel Jacob Kelly, and special presentations and activities, all designed to celebrate reading.

Local Big Read events continue throughout May and into June, and are all inspired by the highlighted literary work, *The Things They Carried*, a critically-acclaimed collection of short stories about the Vietnam War by Tim O'Brien. Events include discussions of the book (geared toward audiences of varied ages), screenings of films about war, exhibits and presentations focused on local military veterans, dramatic readings and re-enactments from the book and more.

- [See Photos of the local Big Read on Memorial Day](#)
- [Click here for a schedule of local Big Read events](#)
- [Find out more about the Big Read nationwide](#)

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