

Raymond Santana, one of ‘Exonerated Five,’ to Speak at CSN

Santana spent five years in prison for a crime he did not commit

February 20, 2020 – CSN and the Associated Students of the College of Southern Nevada are pleased to welcome Raymond Santana Jr. to campus as part of the Den Talks speaker series. The event is free and open to the public.

Santana spent five years in prison for a crime he did not commit, one of the so-called Central Park Five whose exoneration was examined in the award-winning Netflix series “When They See Us.” The series was sparked by Santana when he tweeted the filmmaker Ana DuVernay, who went on to create, co-write and direct the series.

The African American and Latino men who were improperly imprisoned in the case – known now as the Exonerated Five – have been committed to advocating for criminal justice reform and educating people on the disparities in the current system. Santana is now a producer, fashion designer and activist who works closely with the Innocence Project to help ensure that injustices like those he suffered are increasingly rare.

“Mr. Santana is a powerful speaker and I applaud our student government for encouraging dialogue on a topic as important as the treatment of minorities in our criminal justice system,” said CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza. “All CSN students can benefit from learning about real-world issues in the classroom and from people who have experienced them first-hand.”

ASCSN student body president Daniel Gutierrez said: “Mr. Santana’s story is both tragic and inspiring. We want to show our students that no matter their past, no matter where they come from, they can make something of themselves. Raymond Santana’s story shows us all that anything is possible.”

What: When We See Raymond
When: 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 28, 2020
Where: CSN North Las Vegas Campus
Nicholas J. Horn Theatre

About CSN: Founded in 1971, the College of Southern Nevada is the state’s largest and most diverse higher education institution. CSN is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and specializes in two-year degrees and workforce development that lead directly to high-demand careers or transfer to a university. It also offers seven bachelor’s degrees in specialized fields and is the state’s largest provider of adult basic education and literacy training. CSN is a Minority Serving Institution and Nevada’s first Hispanic Serving Institution. Our students create flexible schedules with day, evening and weekend classes taught on three main campuses and multiple locations throughout Southern Nevada or online. CSN is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.