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**GROSSMONT COLLEGE HOSTS NINTH ANNUAL
LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL APRIL 26-MAY 5**

El Cajon - Two Accomplished writers, poet Kim Addonizio and novelist James Brown, will headline this year's Literary Arts Festival to be held at Grossmont College April 26 through May 5.

The Festival, sponsored annually by the Grossmont College Creative Writing Program, will commence Tuesday, April 26 with a performance and book signing by poet Kim Addonizio. Considered a "gritty genius," Addonizio is the author of four books of poetry including *Tell Me*, a finalist for the National Book Award; a collection of stories; and, with Dorianne Laux, *The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Poetry*. Her first novel *Little Beauties* will be published by Simon & Shuster in September. Addonizio's reading will be held at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Griffin Gate on the college campus.

The Festival's second headliner, novelist James Brown, will appear on Tuesday, May 3. Brown is the author of the novels *Lucky Town*, *Final Performance*, *Hot Wire* and *The Second Story Theatre*. He will be reading and signing copies of his memoir *The Los*

Angeles Diaries, listed by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of the best books of the year. The reading will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 220.

According to Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Grossmont College president, “It is a pleasure to invite members of our community to attend this series of literary events, along with our students, faculty and staff. I am proud of our committed faculty who have sustained this impressive nine-year history of exemplary Literary Arts Festival activities.”

Additional events include Fiction Now, a faculty led Creative Writing workshop based on the fiction of contemporary authors. Writers of all levels are welcome to this event to be held on Wednesday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Center Griffin Gate. The following Wednesday, May 4, the Festival will feature a Student Reading of Poetry, Fiction and Creative Nonfiction at 7 p.m., also in the Student Center Griffin Gate. This reading, held each semester, will showcase the original work of Grossmont College Creative Writing students. The final Festival event, Play the Word: A Mixed Media Performance of Literature and Music will take place Thursday, May 5 at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Griffin Gate.

“We’re thrilled with this year’s program,” said Festival coordinator Stephanie Mood. “This is always a special time of year for our writing community.”

All events are free and open to the public. They are supported by the generosity of the Grossmont Foundation and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from the James Irvine Foundation. For more information, contact Mood at (619) 644-7495.

Driving directions are available at www.grossmont.edu.

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