Episode 10 - So You Want To Change The World (From the Botto...

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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

folks, grinnell, organizing, city, work, put, issues, economics, organizer, dixon, talk, part, brulee, people, chicago, policing, fight, money, community, learn

**SPEAKERS**

Meredith Benjamin, Nicholas Lampietti, Dixon Romeo

**Nicholas Lampietti** 00:10

From the center for careers, life and service at Grinnell College you're listening to going forth. I'm Nicholas Lampietti.

**Meredith Benjamin** 00:18

And you already know that I'm Meredith Benjamin!

**Nicholas Lampietti** 00:20

You just heard us talk to Nathan Club

**Meredith Benjamin** 00:23

or you didn't, in which case you should go listen,

**Nicholas Lampietti** 00:25

who ran for public office during his senior year at Grinnell, and later for City Council in Atlanta, all with the hope of making his communities a better place.

**Meredith Benjamin** 00:35

But what does changemaking look like beyond running for elected office?

**Nicholas Lampietti** 00:38

A forced to be reckoned with Dixon Romeo class of 2016 dedicates his life to racial and economic justice in Chicago through grassroots organizing, a passion for affordable housing, and an overarching vision to make his community a better place for the underrepresented.

**Meredith Benjamin** 00:54

Today, he reflects on his time at Grinnell, and how it pushed him to pursue a career in social justice full time,

**Nicholas Lampietti** 01:00

he also details the incredible work as organizations are doing, why it matters, and how you too, can make a difference.

**Meredith Benjamin** 01:07

Stay with us.

**Nicholas Lampietti** 01:19

Wonderful, well, good morning, Dixon. Thank you so much for talking with us today.

**Dixon Romeo** 01:23

Of course, of course, nice to be here.

**Meredith Benjamin** 01:25

Can you start by telling us what is united working families? And can you tell us what your role is with that organization?

**Dixon Romeo** 01:33

Sure. Yeah. So I think I wear a lot of different hats doing different aspects of this work. And like UWF is like my primary like day job, right? So United working families is trying to create a political organization in the city of Chicago that puts people first, right, so it's a amalgamation, I don't know if that's right word, of like community groups, IPOs, individual members, and like unions that have come together to, you know, try and change the shape of what the political landscape in Chicago looks like. In addition to that work, we started a group in my neighborhood, which is, you know, separate from UWF. And we started a group in my neighborhood called Not Me We, and we do, you know, mutual aid, education and like tenant organizing. And then through that organization, we were also part of the Obama CBA coalition. So it was a coalition of community groups in Chicago around with the Obama Presidential Center is going to be fighting for protections against displacement. And then in addition to that, I work with a political director for a state representative Lakeisha Collins, and we do stuff on the west side of the city. So I think so those are like the different hats. And so I think, for me, it's really, it's really fascinating to like, you know, work with an elected official on their political side, to be starting and working in a really grassroots community organization and work in UWF, which is like a, you know, it's trying to be right, a party building, process and platform, what does UWF do? So I think that's what you'd have you have does, right, like we do issue oriented campaigns, right, that effect or that strive to, you know, affect the material conditions of, you know, black and brown folks in the city, the poor, you know, working class working families, right. In addition, we know, we also engage heavily in the political process, right, so we have nine aldermen, on the 50 person, city council, we have, you know, a lot of state reps, county commissioners, and really trying to put candidates in office that are centering and putting people's voices first and fighting for really progressive values.

**Meredith Benjamin** 03:31

Can you give us a quick definition of what grassroots means to you and means in the wider context of political movements?

**Dixon Romeo** 03:38

obviously, like the political director work with rep Collins is not I don't want to that's, that is grassroots in a sense, but not really, right. But really, I think, to be honest with you, like grassroots is one of those terms, it's just like, progressive, right? Like, there's no actual definition. Or, like, you know, for what that means, like, depending on what folks want it to mean, I think generally though, when people talk about grassroots, they mean, like, driven by and run by, you know, working class folks. That is like a movement, you know, that is on the ground. Kinda, I guess is my sense of it. And I think UWF has elements of that. I think that Not Me We which is the separate thing that I do is also is like very much grounded in that. Because it's, you know, it's community origins like, if you don't live there, you can't participate. Right. So you got it. You know, what's more important to look at is like what the political lens or framework is for folks, which I think like, go to tie backs I think my experience at Grinnell right is something that, you know, I got from my classes, right. I think about you know, it's funny, I took some political science classes and so shout out I'd be remiss, I got a shout out Professor Barbara, Trish, honestly, I learned a lot about effective in studying for I think my house economics major. And really, I'd say like folks, like, you know, like Professor Brulee, Keith Brulee were really foundational in terms of like looking at analysis, right, like I remember we had, I was so I had to Intro to economics in 2000 I think 16 Right. And so I think Mitt Romney and Obama were running against each other. We did some, like we were in the intro econ class, and we're like doing the micro economics section and someone made an argument about something. And really was like, you know, I'm not arguing one way or the other politically wise. Like, what you're saying is like, is a Republican, you know, economic argument, right. And so like, you know, because really challenging folks to like think look at how those things connect made me then I think this is the big part about my Grinnell experience as it pertains to learning is like, I was not a fantastic student at Grinnell. Some would argue I was a bad student, but towards the end, I would I really, really, really, especially in my last like, two semesters, I really, really engaged with faculty, and with students and with like, the library man, like I would, you know, I was just thinking about stuff I was feeding myself. And then I would just go and look stuff up. So like, moments like that, you know, popped into my head, you know, two, three laters about brulee and then having him as my economics adviser, we would just talk about, you know, what do I want to do next, and all types of stuff. So that's kind of how I got into looking at things, I think from less of like a surface level view of more about like, what's the actual orientation or like, the lens of it. So that's how I got that's, that's, that frames my question or like the grassroots stuff.

**Nicholas Lampietti** 06:16

We'd love to hear even more about your experience at Grinnell.

**Dixon Romeo** 06:19

I got a really, I would say robust education in terms of how do you deal with institutions at Grinnell College. I think, you know, coming into Grinnell, you know, I'm from South Shore from the Southside of Chicago, I went to Kenwood Academy, which is a good school, you know, I had a good ACT score, my grades sucked in the beginning of high school, because I was doing a lot of family stuff. And then towards the end, they were great, right? So I got to Grinnell, and I immediately struggled academically in retrospect, right, it wasn't because I wasn't smart, or because I didn't care, coupled with like, my learning disability, coupled with like constantly dealing with financial troubles at home, like I just did terrible. And I think the two things that helped me turn that around was, I think, starting to do you know, student government work and like, concern black students, and then digging deep into how I learned and figuring out how to learn, right. And so, again, like Keith Brulee, you know, Reinard's not around anymore, but he was the president of the college at the time. He was really helpful to me, we had a conversation once in his office that was very intense, at least coming from my end, but he was really just trying to, like, help me see, like, look like I've worked with you doing Student Government stuff, like you're clearly smart, like I've seen it, but like, I need you to apply that to the classroom stuff, like find the gap, like what's going on. And then I think like Angela Loose and Belinda Bacchus, I would recommend if anyone wants to just be better at learning, you should go see Belinda like even if you got straight A's. Go see Belinda. So I think one I got to see very clearly as a person, right? What it feels like to be an institution that isn't like necessarily set up for you to succeed and is very in puts the onus a lot of onus on you to do that, which again, is like part of how academia works. But then also, if right institutions like Grinnell, right, are really intentional about bringing folks in from different backgrounds, that means that you have to have really, really, really intentional practices around how do you help folks bridge that gap, right, during the student government, I really got to wrestle with the institution as part of SGA, but also concerned black students. I think then, like dealing with institution, you saw the perils of reform, right? Like you see how certain things like kept cyclically coming around consistently and consistently. And it made me sharpen my analysis around like, Okay, how do we actually look at the source of stuff versus like, the surface level? Right, I think being a part of SGA and dealing with that was interesting. And just seeing how responding to institutions right is which is part of what I will consider you know, what you do as an organizer or an activist? I think there's a distinction there that I'll talk about later. You know, I remember Mike Latham, Dean, Mike Latham, I learned so many lessons just from dealing with him as a administrator, like, like the way and whatnot, like, No, I see, I tell him this the way he would like, people will be mad about something. And Mike was like, Okay, well, we can meet about it just after spring break. I'm like, no one's gonna be mad anymore. Right. And that's an intentional tactic. Right? We had a meeting. And I remember Mike talking to people before the meeting. And I was like, Oh, okay. So like, you shouldn't be having fresh arguments in the meeting. If you're trying to move it somewhere. You got to talk to folks beforehand. Like even when we use that we did a we did a series of like town halls, around student life and services and stuff, even the way Mike like, how they wanted to structure town halls thinking about how people are going to receive stuff and respond to stuff. That was definitely the early seeds of me learning about like, organizing.

**Meredith Benjamin** 09:46

And so you said that there is a distinction between organizing and what was the other thing that you said and you said you wanted to go more into that?

**Dixon Romeo** 09:54

Yeah, I just think just this is an organizer thing in general. So like activism is like me, Dixon Romeo says this thing and I am going to move this thing forward, you know, by whatever means, right? Like activism is like, at least when you look at it from a structural organizing base lens is like one person moving that thing for me as an organizer, right? My theory of change is that like, you know, it takes masses, you know, the masses of people, right to move stuff, no matter what you're trying to do. And you can't do that unless you are in a community or an organization with folks, right. And folks have to be a part of that organization. And an organization has to have a clear mission and vision and like tactics, and, you know, guidelines and rules, you know, stuff like that, the whole thing about organizing is like we acknowledged from, from the jump, you can't do it alone. And so that is why you have to organize folks like so for example, you know, with UWF, when we did, we worked with, you know, parents and teachers and community members in North Lawndale, which is a neighborhood on the west side of the city. And two years ago, the city tried to essentially, with working with another community group, right, they tried to advance a plan that would open a new school. But in order to do that, you would have to close through the existing schools, Chicago, if you all don't know, had the massive the biggest school closure in history at the time in 2013. If Dixon Romeo showed up and said, "This is bad," or one or two of the parents showed up and said, "This is bad," the schools probably would have closed, but instead, right, we had we made a coalition, right. And we were organized and over 250 parents and teachers and community members, called the mayor, you know, showed up, had rallies have protested, did all the things right? That that led to the school not being closed, right. And so I think that's the difference between activism and organizing, right? If you're an organizer, you're never walking anywhere, or doing anything by yourself, and rarely are you at the front of it.

**Meredith Benjamin** 11:48

I've never thought about it in that way. But that makes total sense. And I really appreciate that that insight.

**Nicholas Lampietti** 11:54

Throughout the conversation, you've mentioned a lot of the issues that you fight for and work on. And I'm wondering if we could sort of

**Meredith Benjamin** 12:02

Yeah, zooming out? What are the issues that matter to you? And what are what are your goals in the work that you do?

**Dixon Romeo** 12:08

You know, I think with with UWF, right, like we I think we have a pretty big platform of stuff. But since I've worked there, there's kind of been three big kind of I think things I've worked on. So I think one is like education work. So obviously, right fighting the school closures in North Lawndale, which was successful. I think we've done a work on environmental injustice. So I did, I worked with right to stop general iron campaigns, I was a part of that campaign, where the city essentially, again, Rahm Emanuel struck a deal with general iron, right, which changed their name to RMG. And then Southside recycling, or whatever. But they had a metal shredding plant that was on the north side of the city in Lincoln Park, right, which is a very affluent white neighborhood in the city, folks in that community wanted to push, you know, want a general iron out, because of the environmental impact, right, there have been fires, this is, you know, smokestacks that go over people with deteriorates to air quality, etc, etc. And the city decided, instead of telling them, they can't operate in the city anymore, they were going to move it from Lincoln Park, and move it to the south east side of the city, which is basically has been the city's environmental dumping ground for a lot of years. And as mostly Latinx, but also a black, you know, a pretty significant black population on the southeast side as well. Right. So and, you know, folks did a 30 day hunger strike, you know, we did a bunch of other stuff, you know, obviously, lobbying and other things, but essentially, we got the city to deny general iron the permit, right to allow them to basically move this facility facility and do that operations. Another thing we did last year was the right to recovery campaign, which was, you know, the city, the federal government with the American rescue plan, and Joe Biden gave cities basically, more or less a blank check to kind of like, deal with the effects of COVID. Right. And so when does it happen with the Cares Act under President Trump, the city of Chicago took, jeez, either 46 or 64. Either way, very big number, it took a significant portion of the money that was in the discretionary funds that could have gone towards anything and put it towards policing coming off of 2020 or during 2020. Right when we have like a national movement uprising around. I think in some circles, right, when our police accountability with George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, but a significant of folks, especially in the city, we're pushing for either abolition or defunding of the police, right, really radical changes, or destruction of that system. And to put money towards that when you could have put it towards feeding more people, towards housing people ,towards getting, the you know, towards more COVID testing at the time, this was before the vaccine, and then, you know, vaccine distribution, all these different things that could have gone to, and they went to policing so we knew when the city was getting this $1.8 billion for the rescue plan. We wanted to really fight and make sure that communities voices were heard and folks were pushing for that. And so we came up with, you know, the right to recovery coalition. It was a coalition of community groups, elected officials, unions, you know, individual folks, you know, we hit the streets and canvass and talk to people. We created our own plan, we wrote our own piece of legislation allocated where all that $1.8 billion would go to, and we put it towards, I mean, every thing you can think of right to having, you know, a version of universal childcare, right, that will be spread out across the city in zones towards all different types of money and housing, whether it's Rapid Rehousing, but permanent supportive housing for folks funding for additional support affordable housing, towards alternatives to policing rights, like violence prevention, money for the treatment not trauma pilot, which is instead of you know, having police officers show up, when folks are in distress, having medical professionals show up without police, right? Because we know those situations often don't end well for the community, but especially the folks who need help. And those moments, I mean, even like everything you could think of we had in that legislation, right. And ultimately, it didn't pass. But a lot of what we were pushing for, like the UB, universal basic income pilot, like money towards different housing, stuff, like additional funding for our cities, public health clinics, and public health clinic workers did end up in the budget, because of the work we did pushing that and putting some pressure on the mayor, I think to respond, how she was spending the money. And so those are the those are the three biggest things, I think. So that's my UWF stuff not UWF stuff with Not Me We I mean, I think really, I have a very strong passion around housing and tenant organizing. Because I think that the reality is, is that most folks are overburdened by their rent. And even, and we know right, again, this goes back to Grinnell, just studying what happened during the financial crisis. The economic incentive is not to build homes anymore as to build rental properties, right? Because you can increase your profit margins every year. And they you know, they take less space, right? So you'd have to fight over land as much right. You know, I just talked about Lincoln Park and the southeast side of Chicago, right. And I'll ask you, right, which neighborhood, do you think it's easier to buy a property or cheaper to buy a property or piece of land in?

**Meredith Benjamin** 17:09

I mean, probably not Lincoln Park. You know, in thinking about that a lot of what you've talked about has had to do with economic inequality. You know, you mentioned that most people are overburdened by their rent. And so I think it raises an interesting point, which is that the best work is rarely the work that is best fiscally compensated, and these financial barriers can often prevent people from really focusing on what they want to be doing with that reality in mind, you know, how can a person how can a Grinnellian turn, you know, a passion for social justice and for the issues that they care about into a viable career path?

**Dixon Romeo** 17:12

Right. Right. Right. So if all and again, like a ton of Econ class, I know, economics is more complex than that. But at its core, right? firms operate to get profit, and those firms can get profit. Basically, one, right, it's one way, right, you buy low, you sell high or you whatever you're producing has to cost less than what you're selling it for. So you can make money, right? So if it's cheaper for me to buy a home in a poor neighborhood, then I have more of an incentive, right to buy a home in that neighborhood, right, and I want to make money. So I'm not going to sell it at a rate that's, you know, neighborhoods where I live in like South Shore, the median income is like $26,000. So if I'm buying a home, and I'm selling it, I'm not selling it for someone who can afford that home there, there's a really clear connection between, you know, I would say like economics and like the housing market, because that's the that's the real pressure. And unlike issues like policing, unlike issues like that most workers face on like issues in education, there is no real, I would argue, like workforce that is a part of this profit driving motive, right. Like, it's usually landlords, they pay someone to super in a building, and they may contract other stuff out. But it's literally just because I own this building, right? I'm gonna charge whatever I want for this profit, right? You know, doing the Not Me We stuff, I really cut my teeth, doing tenant organizing, right, working with folks and building who are getting displace, right, whose landlords are abusing them, right dealing with slum lords and going in and working with tenants and helping them, you know, fight back, right and get the changes they needed, getting their properties, or, you know, force the landlord to sell the building or forced the city to shut the building down and make the landlord pay to relocate folks, whatever, whatever we end up at in that campaign that's part of that work. And to be honest with you, of all the things I've done, I'm most passionate about the tenants we've been able to work with, and empower, right? I think if folks want to organize as a job in organizing that pays close enough or what they want, and I think I'm really grateful to UWF. Obviously, it's a lot of work, but sees the value Are you in no good organized. And what that means is I think I make I think I make good enough. I got friends who were at Grinnell who were also econ majors who have other jobs and don't make as much as I do. So, you know, I put that in perspective. But I think like To be frank, I mean, I think you can I think you can find organizing job where you're making 50 60k or more, I think, is folks just have to want to do it and get good at it. It's a crash, right, just like anything else. I think that I feel pretty strongly, obviously, because I do it. But I think that I think organizing is the hardest job you can do, because I think it requires you to have a mastery of so many different aspects of things. And the margin of errors, essentially, non-existant, like you can't make them. I mean, you can make mistakes, you will make mistakes, I make mistakes all the time. But the it's like the the margin of error is not the same. You know, it's probably like, you know, it's up there with like surgery and stuff, I think, because I think right, what it requires you to do is you have to look people in the eye and get them to trust you. That's number one. And that's super hard. And then you have to get those folks who you trust, to look at an issue, right, you have to be a teacher, you have to educate folks on the issue. And then you have to be a coach, right, you have to help people move on that issue. And then you have to when things don't go well, you have to problems that you have to understand the political landscape, understand the legislative landscape, understand the issue, understand the solution, be able to relay that to folks in 30 seconds, because you only got 30 seconds when you're talking to somebody on the door or on the street, and then move them to action in addition to fighting, right, if you're an organizer, if you're a good organizer, 9 times out of 10 you're fighting either a really powerful business, a person, right? An institution that has a lot of resources demands, right? It's like every fight you're in, you're a David versus Goliath. And you have to constantly do all these things, and be on time, call people back, right? It's a very tough job. And like you said, like you're a organizer, you don't get a assistant or anything like it's on you. Also, I mean, I think also I gotta get out of the like, it's just pricing, I've said it's the hardest, because we shouldn't rank these things, all things are hard. But, you know, I think it's a challenging work. But if folks want to do it, and you care about it, and you're passionate, it can happen, I think to be super, super direct. If you want to organize, you need to think about what issue you care about, and then start working with or being a part of organizations that work on those things. And that will put you on the path, I think, to finding a job and like organizing and dealing with the financial constraints around it. Because I think, again, the financial constraints, I don't think they change. I mean, based on, you know, obviously, where you're coming from or where your family's from, like to me, right, I don't have a safety net, you know, I love my mom and dad to death, we've had ups and downs in our relations, but they're wonderful people. And like, if I need a loan of $20,000 it ain't coming from either of them, right, like, you know what I'm saying like, it's not going to happen, whether I decided to be a doctor or an organizer. So for me, I just had to take that in mind when I chose the job right. I think some Grinnellian's are really blessed, that their families do have some means, right. And if your family have some means that maybe you can take a pay cut for a job, I think for those folks who don't, which I know is also a significant amount of Grinnellians, and it's just about being really smart and intentional about the work you want to do. So if you're gonna get organizing job and you're only making 60k, then that means that you have to not live within your means because that's very much pull your bootstraps up, but like, you know, just be real about be real about what you got. I think the thing about thinking about the economic constraints for organizing, I don't think necessarily change. I think they exist with any other position that you're gonna take.

**Meredith Benjamin** 23:40

There's just so many really interesting things that you've said, and we're really, just so grateful to you for having come on the podcast and for kind of sharing these, you know, both both talking about your world and the politics and the work that you do and the issues and also kind of providing advice to young Grinnellians who might be listening to this.

**Nicholas Lampietti** 24:04

So to end it, we thought we would sort of look towards the future, both in terms of your work, how should Grinnellians get involved in these kinds of issues and start doing some of the work you're doing more broadly. You know, what would you have said to your, I guess, 19, 20, 21 year old self, Dixon at Grinnell,

**Dixon Romeo** 24:25

Aw man that's crazy

**Nicholas Lampietti** 24:26

what advice would you would you give to him?

**Dixon Romeo** 24:28

What would I tell Dixon at Grinnell? go to sleep? I don't know. I feel like I stayed up way too much, I coulda done stuff in the morning. No, I think I think for Grinnellians like, I think for me, when especially when I was doing poorly at Grinnell, I felt like this was like the end of the world. And the reality of it is is that it wasn't even close to being over and it was really like, you know, origin story type shit, which was dope. I think, in general to Grinnellians, I would say like the world we want to live in isn't going to happen just cuz, right. Like I think I hate the fact that people, I think there are folks who will I work with or folks who have more, not more, but folks who have extremely, I will say radical politics have really sharp critiques of like Dr. King, but I think in general, his like vision and like his words, and the radical King himself, right has been bastardized in a lot of ways. I think people take the Arlberg of the universe quo as like an inherent thing, right? And that's not how it works, right? I would really push kind of like the Marx historical materialism piece, which is like, things happen, and we shape those conditions, right. And so, you know, folks can have an analysis and that's cool. But it's our work to do the work to change it right. And so I feel pretty strongly that like, in my experience, a lot of Grinnellians and faculty as well are inherently have kind of a defeatist mindset, right? The world is the way it is. And that sucks. Well at least in the econ classes I was in right I was in the classes with \*bleep\*. I love those guys, but I say that affectionately, as if, as a \*bleep\* but anyway, you know, I think I think that, you know, folks have a defeatist mindset, like the world sucks at how it is. So let me just make some money. And let me just take care of me. And I think, right, right, like, of course, you have to take care of yourself. And also the world does not have to be that way. And it's not contradictory for you to satisfy your material needs and also work so that the world is a better place, right? I think about where these issues are going. I think, you know, even at progressive institutions like Grinnell that have a big endowment that are trying and pay a lot of money, you know, shout out to Joe Bagnolet, right. Like Grinnell gave me a nice chunk of my-lot of, a lot of loans too, but you know, a lot of a lot of money to go to school there. And I think the cost keeps increasing, right, the cost of college keeps increasing, and it's becoming more and more expensive to live in most major cities in the country. And in most suburbs. In those suburbs where now more poor people are living, the public infrastructure is eradicating, so you don't have the tax base, right. Oftentimes, when they do spend that money, it's going towards these kind of like vanity projects, or these mega developments that serve a couple of folks. And they're seen as like economic engine drivers, but don't really do the thing and put money in poor people's hands. And actually, we're moving to kind of like this like regressive political state where we really want things to return to the way they were right pre Trump and the way they were pre Trump, regardless who the President was sucked. You know, Barack Obama, like, when he got elected, my grandma cried, and like, the US was still in Imperials nation bombing people in other countries, right, we still had the Flint water crisis, you still had the affordable housing crisis, it's going to take, I think, structural change, to get that, right. And we have to do that work to move out of this like cultural and like economic capitalist system that we live in. So that's why I think the issues are going, they're gonna, you know, things are gonna get tough. Those are perfect conditions for folks to realize what's going on and get organized and fight back. I think another thing I'd tell my Grinnell self is to, like, actually study more now that I'm like, you know, I have to study on my own right to learn stuff. But you know, of course, we work with people, and we have academics and folks who are really helpful when we research issues and think about policy solutions, but I gotta read this shit myself. And like, really form critical engagement and thought, and I think that I just remember at Grinnell, there's just like a really a real culture around like, to a degree around like what, you know, like, I'd make a strong argument that economics isn't a scientist it's a philosophy. And so if I was a philosopher, English major, you know, that's a real big gap that I need to see. Right. And that informs my storytelling that informs what I write what I read, I think when you look at places like the New York Times, and other places where folks are becoming really, really critical about like, how they look at issues, right, anything from police brutality, the other stuff, I think, you know, we have to eradicate, white supremacy in general, but also like in the way that we learn and teach things, right. And so I think that's just that's a huge part of it, too. I would say to younger Dixon, I would really be then I would probably try and be vice president of academic affairs to VPSA when I was in student government, I'd really be pushing on. What are we actually teaching and engaging folks in on campus?

**Meredith Benjamin** 24:54

Thank you so so much.

**Nicholas Lampietti** 29:01

I know thank you. We really were honored to have this opportunity to speak with you

**Dixon Romeo** 29:06

Before I hop off I got a shout out so many people so 123 goes shout out. I don't know if Chuck is still there in the grill but shout out to Chuck. Everybody in the Black Cultural Center. Shout out to Patricia Finkelman Eric Whitacre, Angela Boos, Renard Kingston, Sarah Purcell, Sarah Purcell best history teacher, Keith Brulee, Belinda Bacchus, everybody who is engaged with Grinnell and put up with my \*bleep\* I'm just really appreciative, they helped me be a smart person.

**Meredith Benjamin** 29:31

That is such a great way to end it, thank you

**Nicholas Lampietti** 29:33

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