3/20 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview
Thank you for joining us for The American Dream in Wisconsin. We hope the following discussion questions will provide a framework for thinking and talking about this important subject. If you are watching the series through Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/WisconsinAcademy), we encourage you to send your questions to through live evnt discussion thread or post questions to Facebook or Twitter with #AmericanDreamWI and we will try to share them with the speaker and audience during the Q&A session. Or e-mail your questions to questions@wisconsinacademy.org.

Contact Wisconsin Academy associate director Jason A. Smith at jsmith@wisconsinacademy.org or call 608-263-1692 x21 with general questions about how to best view and share the American Dream in Wisconsin series broadcasts with libraries and discussion groups.

Guidelines
• Try to refer to specific points/perspectives from the talk at hand before you offer your own insights.
• Listen carefully to what others are saying and respect others’ rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. When you disagree, challenge or criticize the idea, not the person.
• Be courteous. Don’t interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking.
• Support and take responsibility for your statements. Use evidence and avoid generalization.
• Share responsibility for including all voices in the discussion. If you have much to say, try to hold back a bit; if you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to contribute.
• Recognize that we are all still learning. Be willing to change your perspective, and make space for others to do the same.

General Series Questions
• What does the American Dream mean to you?
• Does the American Dream unite or divide us?
• How has the American Dream changed during your lifetime; how has it remained the same?
• What do we all share as Americans that is central to the promise of the American Dream?

Questions for The Pursuit of Happiness with Richard Davidson
• The “pursuit of happiness” is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, yet many Americans suffer from chronic unhappiness, even despair. Are you happy? How does your definition of happiness shape how happy you really are?
• What is the role of a nation, state, or community in the pursuit of individual happiness? Does an individual have an obligation to contribute to the overall happiness of their community, state, or nation? Why or why not?
• If you could spend a half an hour a day “exercising” your happiness so that it might increase overall (much like physical fitness), would you do so? What are some simple things you could do to prepare yourself to “get in shape” from a happiness standpoint?