

**The Other Side of Immigration:
Film Viewing and discussion
*BORDERLAND***

When: Saturday, November 5, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Where: Stony Brook University, Health Sciences Center, Level 3, Lecture Hall 5 (Parking available for a fee in the Hospital Garage).

Free event open to the community.

The School of Social Welfare, the Undergraduate Social Welfare Alliance (USWA), the Protestant Campus Ministry, and the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Stony Brook University is hosting Alex Seel, one of six participants in a challenging documentary, "***Borderland***," produced and aired in April 2014. The final episode of the series will be aired, and Alex Seel will share his experiences and answer questions.

In this four-part television series, six Americans from varying backgrounds are confronted with the realities of undocumented migrant labor. The participants split into three groups and go to Mexico and Central America in order to retrace the footsteps of three migrants who did not survive the journey north. They discover the circumstances which led the migrants to risk their lives; they make their way north by riding atop a cargo train known as "La Bestia" or "The Beast"; they learn about the impact of Mexico's drug wars on immigrants; they traverse the desert in which some 2,500 migrants died the previous year. The journey leaves them shaken and changed. ***Borderland*** does not provide answers to the problem of undocumented immigration, but it shows the humanity of everyone involved in the process.

Undocumented migrant labor is a compelling issue and the debate over immigration policies brings out deep passions, but it is often divorced from our day to day experience. The show presents the full complexity of the issue, and the participants come away with something desperately needed in the debate—empathy. After viewing the documentary, viewers will not look at the issue of undocumented immigration the same way again.

SBU students and faculty may access the other episodes not shown during this event

through BlackBoard - please contact Dr. Suzanne Velazquez, School of Social Welfare:
Suzanne.Velazquez@stonybrook.edu