

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Spring 2015

Applications are available for students interested in being the student speaker for the 2015 Spring Commencement ceremony. One speaker will be selected for the ceremony.

To qualify, students must:

1. Be in good academic standing
2. Have applied to graduate this Spring 2015

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1. Applications and outlines must be received **by 4:30 PM on Friday, March 6, 2015.**

Both the application and speech outline must be submitted to a campus student life representative:

Gettysburg Campus: Jessica Knouse, G131 A/b, 339-3536, jlknouse@hacc.edu

Harrisburg Campus: Jeff Fazio, C107C, 780-3279, jmfazio@hacc.edu

Lancaster Campus: Warren Bair, RM105C, 358-2850, whbair@hacc.edu

Lebanon Campus: Brandy Skaf, Rm. 243, 270-6364, bskaf@hacc.edu

Virtual Learning: Jazmin Simpson, York Campus, YG101D, 801-3327 jbsimpso@hacc.edu

York Campus: Errol Wizda, Goodling Bldg., Rm. 101C, 801-3251, ejwizda@hacc.edu

2. Application materials will be forwarded to the Dean of Student/Academic Success Office (Ted Lick Admin., Rm. 105G) on Monday, March 9, 2015, for review and scheduling.
3. Qualified applicants will be called the week of March 9, 2015, to schedule an appointment to deliver their speech to the Selection Committee.
4. Selected students will be required to audition during the day of **Monday, March 16, 2015.** Audition appointments will be available at each campus. Each finalist will be expected to deliver his/her 3-5 minute speech at the audition. There will be a brief question and answer period.
5. The Selection Committee will make the selection and applicants will be notified the week of March 23, 2015.
6. The selected commencement speaker will work with a member of the Speech or Writing Department to prepare for the Commencement Ceremony.
7. The commencement speaker will be part of the Platform Guests for the Commencement Ceremony at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES for WRITING a COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

Taken from: Public Speaking Handbook, Second Edition by Steven A. Beebe and Susan J. Beebe:

Commencement Addresses must fulfill two important functions:

- **The commencement speaker should praise the graduating class.** The audience includes the families and friends of the graduates, as well as the graduates. One should acknowledge the significance of the graduates' accomplishments. It can be very appropriate to relate to this audience based on the speaker's experiences during his/her own educational pursuits. The speaker who commemorates this event pays tribute to those who have helped along the way and provides information on the accomplishments of the graduates.
- **The commencement speaker should turn graduates toward the future.** The commencement address is not to bemoan the world's problems but rather suggest bright new goals and inspire graduates to reach those goals.

Keep these points in mind as you prepare:

Delivery Style:

- use vocal variety
- use inclusive eye contact with the audience
- project a positive attitude

Language Choice:

- use correct grammar
- be imaginative

Content:

- reference educational impact of HACC on your life
- include goals (educational, personal, career)
- make a connection with students (future vision)

As a commencement speaker, there are a variety of tools for you to use. Your speech professor might be one or the speech center on the Harrisburg Campus (speech@hacc.edu). You can also visit the writing centers on our Lancaster, Lebanon, Gettysburg and York campuses.

In addition, you can also find a few internet resources, including the following:

http://www.ehow.com/how_17534_write-commencement-address.html
<http://www.diyliife.com/2008/05/20/how-to-write-a-graduation-speech/>

