

# Student Application for Commencement Speech 2015

## Criteria to apply

- ✓ Applicants must be eligible for graduation, May 30, 2015.
- ✓ Applicants must submit an original speech, spoken word piece, or poetry that discusses their positive experience at HCC. Vocalists can apply to sing an original piece or a cover song.
- ✓ Applicants must be attending the Commencement ceremony on May 30, 2015 at HCC.
- ✓ If selected, the student must be willing and available to work with and take critique from a personal coach selected by the committee.

## Applications

- **Applications are due by Friday, April 10 at 4:30 pm.**
- Applications can be turned in to Student Activities in Don 103 or Student Affairs in Frost 224.
- Applications must include the attached form and a hard copy of the speech/poem/song.

## Speeches

- **Must be 5 minutes or less!**
- *Speeches do not have to be perfect!* The candidates will be selected to present their speeches to the committee and then work with a coach to edit and perfect the speech before the presentation at Commencement.

## Timeline

2/20– 4/10      Applications are available in Don 103, Frost 224

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4/10              Applications are due by 4:30 pm

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4/11 – 4/17      Committee reviews applications and notifies selected candidates.

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4/20 – 4/24      Candidates present speeches to the committee.

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4/27              Committee selects the student speakers for commencement.

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4/27              Speakers are assigned a coach.

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4/27 – 5/28      Speakers work with their coach based on their own schedules.

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5/29              Rehearsal at the MassMutual Center in the afternoon.

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5/30              Commencement. Speakers arrive at 9:00AM

## Questions

Liz Golen in Student Activities, Don 103 at [egolen@hcc.edu](mailto:egolen@hcc.edu)

Myriam Quinones in Multicultural Academic Services, Frost 262 at [mquinones@hcc.edu](mailto:mquinones@hcc.edu)

# Student Application for Commencement Speech 2015

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What are you submitting?    ☐ Speech    ☐ Song    ☐ Poem    ☐ Spoken Word

How would you prefer we contact you?    ☐ Cell phone    ☐ Home phone    ☐ Email

## What are we looking for?

We are looking for students who have a story. Maybe you've overcome obstacles to be where you are today. Tell us how HCC helped you on your way. Tell us about your experience here. Tell us where you've been and where you're going. Tell us about your personal path to graduation!

**This application is due along with a hard copy of your presentation by APRIL 10 at 4:30 pm to Don 103 or Frost 224**

## A few gentle reminders about graduation speeches/presentations:

**Understand who your audience is.** They are mostly graduates and family and close friends. Make sure your speech relates to them.

**Speak from the heart and tell your story.** A great speech comes from the heart, not the head.

**Tell stories.** People love hearing stories, and they are easy to remember and fun to tell.

**Organize your speech.** Have a clear opening that grabs their attention. Then move to the body which includes your message. Lastly, have a conclusion that sends them away feeling good.

**Keep it short.** Graduation ceremonies are long enough. Never go over allotted time.

**Be grateful and humble.** Feel free to thank people. Talk about others instead of yourself.

**Hold off on the inside jokes or excessive name dropping.** Unless everyone is in on the story, don't tell it. This also applies to talking specifically about certain staff, faculty, or departments.