Student Commencement Speaker Selection Process 2020

Requirements:
- Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 6 credit hours to complete following the 2020 spring semester.
- One speech per graduating student may be submitted.
- Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
- Speech should be addressed to the University community in general, including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
- It is suggested that the speech reflect the student’s experience as a member of the University Community.
- Speech must be 3-5 minutes in length (approximately 500-700 words).
- Selection is based on quality, originality, overall message, tone, relevance, and delivery.

Oral Presentation(s):
- Two or more submissions will be selected to be presented orally for the committee.
  
  *If you submit a speech, please block these times on your schedule. You will be notified by March 19th if you will be invited to present before the committee.*
  
  o The first round of oral presentations will take place on Tuesday, March 24th from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM in Portland (location TBA). Finalists will be notified on Wednesday, March 25th with feedback and the opportunity to alter both the content and delivery of their speech for a final round of oral presentations. Note: The committee is also able to complete the process at this point and make a final decision about the selected speaker if they see fit.
  o The final round of oral presentations will take place on Tuesday, March 31st from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM in Portland (location TBA). A final decision will be made and finalists will be notified on Wednesday, April 1st.

Submission Process:
- Information is available online at the Commencement website: usm.maine.edu/commencement
- Submit your speech by Tuesday, March 10, 2020 by 4:00 PM via the Google Form
  
  o Note, you must be logged in to your @maine.edu email in order to access the form
- Contact Alex Carrier Hitchcox via email with questions at alex.carrier.hitchcox@maine.edu

Additional Information:
- The student speakers are chosen by a committee made up of students, faculty and staff.
- Commencement 2020 will be held at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, Maine on Saturday, May 9, 2020 beginning at 9:00 AM.
- If you need special services, assistance or accommodation to participate fully in this program, contact – TTY 780-5646.
- The selected speaker will be awarded a gift donated by the USM Alumni Association.
- For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Learning Commons on the 2nd floor of Glickman Library in Portland, or the 1st floor of the Bailey Library in Gorham; or Writing Center at LAC.