

## Commencement Student Speaker Contest Process

We are looking for an outstanding student speaker (or two!) who can best represent NYIT students' experiences at the 2018 commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Nassau Coliseum. The student speaker(s) may be undergraduate, graduate or professional candidates (or a combination). This is a great honor and an opportunity to share your story and to represent your class by reflecting on the educational experiences you've shared.

### Candidates must:

- Be qualified August 2017, December 2017, or May 2018 graduates, receiving an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree.
- Provide cumulative grade point average.
- Demonstrate a commitment to campus involvement by submitting a verifiable detailed list of extracurricular and volunteer activities, club memberships, and leadership positions.
- Write clear, personal, articulate responses to at least two of the questions (see below)
- Submit a video recording of yourself reading your responses and/or telling your story in your own words to [commencement@nyit.edu](mailto:commencement@nyit.edu). You will be judged on:
  - Content of remarks (unique perspective, personal narrative, and motivational aspects)
  - Presentation style, speech delivery
 We're looking for someone with a natural (and somewhat fearless) presentation style.

Please note: this is *not necessarily* what your speech will be at commencement. But the subjects covered in your responses or language within could likely be the basis for the content. The Communications + Marketing office will work with the selected speaker(s) on those remarks.

### The Student Speaker receives:

- Invitation to the commencement VIP brunch for yourself and two guests
- Four tickets to the VIP seating section (in addition to four general seating tickets)
- Recognition in commencement program

### Process and deadlines:

#### Phase I: Written Application Materials

##### Due Friday, March 2, 2018 by 5 p.m.

- Completed application with current resume
- Typed responses to **two or more** of the following five questions (each answer should be between 120-180 words):
  - What life changing obstacle have you overcome?
  - Who at NYIT has inspired you and how has that experience changed you?
  - Is there an exciting next chapter story in your life that will be happening because you are grating from NYIT?
  - What is one of your favorite memories of being at NYIT?
  - What do you think is the greatest challenge and/or the greatest opportunity your generation has?
- Typed response to the following question: Why do you want to be the 2018 Student Commencement Speaker?

#### Phase II: Interviews

March – April 2018

- Your application (including your video submission) will be reviewed by the selection committee

- Semifinalists will interview with the selection committee and be asked at that time for the endorsement of a senior faculty or senior administrator
- All semifinalists and the winner will be contacted.

**Phase III: Commencement Speaker Practice Sessions (selected student only)**

May 2018 - Work with a commencement coach to prepare and finalize your speech, which will be approximately two minutes long.

## Commencement Student Speaker Contest Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the following to this application form:

- Current resume to include all extracurricular, volunteer activities, club memberships, and leadership positions.
- Typed responses to two or more of the five questions listed above (each answer 120-180 words long)
- Video recording of you reading those responses OR you speaking more naturally from the heart about those topics
- Typed response to the following question:
  - Why do you want to be the 2018 Student Commencement Speaker?

**Written Application Materials - Due Friday, March 2, 2018 by 5 p.m.**

Please send to Office of Events & Conferences, [commencement@nyit.edu](mailto:commencement@nyit.edu).  
Questions: 516.686.1177