

February 28, 2017

Dear Graduation Applicant:

For the tenth year in a row, commencement exercises at Crafton Hills College will include a speech delivered by a graduating student and the singing of the National Anthem performed by another student. The faculty, staff and administration of the college are seeking students who are interested in representing your graduation class as this speaker or as the singer. The students ultimately chosen for these honors will deliver a four to five minute speech commemorating the occasion **or** sing the national anthem accompanied by a string quartet.

To be eligible, students must participate in the campus commencement exercises on Friday, May 26.

To apply for the student speaker position, please fill out the attached application and begin work on the manuscript of your speech. In the speech, you should identify a theme or message you wish to impart on your classmates and those in attendance, and then develop that theme using stories, anecdotes, quotes and other appropriate information.

To apply for the student singer position, please fill out the attached application and prepare to audition with including your rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner”. Solo and group performances are welcome. The tryouts are free of charge and are open to Crafton Hills College students only.

Initial applications are due no later than March 30 and should be returned to the Department of Student Life (CCR 153).

Interested students will be notified of the receipt of their application and be invited to the auditions. Auditions will take place on Thursday, April 6 2017. Speaker auditions will be held from 1-2pm in EAST 106 and Singer auditions will be held from 2:15-3:15pm in PAC 308. During these auditions, faculty and staff in the Department of Speech Communication, the Department of Music, and the Department of Student Life will judge the performances of all applicants. Judges will select the commencement speaker as well as an alternate, and the student singer. All three performers will then be expected to work with Speech Communication and Music Department faculty throughout the second half of the semester to rehearse their speech or song in preparation for commencement. The commencement speaker will speak and the national anthem singer will sing at the commencement ceremony on the evening of May 26. The alternate speaker will speak at the Graduates’ Breakfast that morning (and at the commencement ceremony in the event the speaker is unable to attend).

We are excited about the opportunity to have more student participation in the commencement exercises at Crafton Hills College and hope that you will consider this opportunity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Ericka Paddock
Director of Student Life

Jim Urbanovich
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication

Mark McConnell
Department Chair, Music

2017 STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER/SINGER APPLICATION

I, _____, hereby acknowledge my interest in being the **(Please circle your selection)** A.) student speaker or B.) student singer at Commencement on May 26, 2017. **I understand that I will be prepared to deliver a draft of my four to five minute (approximately 600 to 800 words) manuscript speech OR be ready to perform my rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner” at my scheduled audition time.** If I am selected as the winner or alternate, I further understand I will be expected to devote time and effort revising and rehearsing my speech or performance with faculty and staff in preparation for commencement and/or graduates’ breakfast

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone Number) _____

How long have you been a student at Crafton Hills College? _____

References: Please list the names of **two** faculty or staff who can speak to your academic and personal qualifications.

Why you would like to be student commencement speaker or student singer?

What are your educational goals and career aspirations?

Describe any previous public speaking or singing experience you have had.

I am willing to serve as the alternate speaker.(Speakers Only)

Signature _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE (CCR 153) NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MARCH 30,2017