



## 2020 Senior Class Commencement Speaker

### Application Process

Rider University has a long history of student speakers at Commencement and we look forward to another outstanding address from a member of the class of 2020. Seniors who would like to be considered as a candidate for the Class of 2020 Commencement Speaker must:

- Be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremonies on May 16, 2020
- Be in good academic, financial, and judicial standing
- Be able to speak effectively to a large audience

The application process and timeline is as follows:

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 5 p.m., Shapiro Board Room, SRC (above Starbucks)**

**Due Monday, March 2, 2020:** Applicants are required to submit the documents listed below via email to *deanofstudents@rider.edu*.

1. The full text of your speech. Your speech should be 5-7 minutes in length and should reflect the impact Rider University has had on you and a message you would like to leave with your class.
2. A copy of your resume that includes your name and contact information; major/minor; G.P.A.; information on any honors and or awards received; jobs, internships or co-ops; Rider University activities and offices held; Community Service activities; and the names of two (2) Rider University references.
3. A cover letter that describes your interest in being considered as a candidate for the Senior Class Speaker. Please also include a response to each of the following prompts. Your answers should not exceed one-paragraph per prompt.
  - What is your perception of the purpose of a commencement speech?
  - What do you think should be included in a commencement speech?
  - What are the reasons why you want to be considered as a candidate?
  - What is the most important way in which Rider has impacted your life?

## **Tuesday, March 3 - Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

A committee composed of faculty, administrators and academic deans will select 5 to 7 finalists for further consideration. The finalists will be interviewed by the committee and asked to present their entire speech.

## **Thursday, March 26, 2020**

The finalists will be informed of the committee's decision in writing. A Senior Class Commencement Speaker and an Alternate Speaker will be chosen.

The student selected will work closely with a committee member to prepare for his or her Commencement address.

### **2020 Commencement Speaker Selection Committee:**

Trenton Blanton, *Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance Department*

Myra Gutin, *Professor, Communication/Journalism Department*

Keith Kemo, *Director of the Office of Community Standards*

Jessica Kunz, *Student Representative*

Dean Klebonas, *Student Representative*

Sharon McKool, *Chairperson, Teacher Education Department*

Cindy Threath, *Dean of Students / Associate VP for Student Affairs*

Cynthia Vieth, *Lecturer, Communication/Journalism Department*