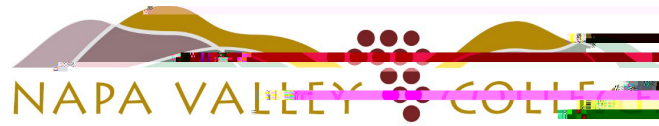


## Valedictory

by 5 p.m.	Application form is due
Friday, April 19 by 5 p.m. noon	Students will be notified if they have been invited to present their speech to the selection committee. Selected finalists will be called to schedule a 10-minute interview appointment.
Thursday, April 25 @ 2 p.m. or Friday, April 26 @ 9 a.m.	Interviews: Those selected will interview and make their speech presentation to the Valedictory Selection Committee on this date during a 10-minute appointment.
Monday, April 29	One student speaker will be selected by this date.



## HOW TO WRITE A WINNING COMMENCEMENT SPEECH!

Being chosen as a college valedictory speaker is a high honor and a capstone of a successful college career. Many spend a lot of time preparing a speech, only to learn that someone else was awarded that honor. *How can you improve your chances to present your speech to the Valedictory Selection Committee?*

Here are some guidelines:

- **Tell a story:** Talk about personal success at NVC or in general, such as struggles ending in triumph, or momentous decisions and life-changing experiences that led you to where you are today. Reflect on your experience as a student at NVC and how it has affected your life.
- **Make it personal:** Add touches that show who you are. Humor, modesty, or even a little boastfulness is ok!
- **Make it universal:** Commencement celebrates those graduating. Don't forget them. Acknowledge those who have travelled this road with you, as well as the people who have supported you along the way.
- **Be yourself:** Be sincere! Nothing kills a speech—or an audition—like the appearance of phoniness or “phoning it in.”
- **Be original:** **DO NOT** write a speech filled with quotations from famous people or clichés about success and hard work. Those speeches don't get chosen.
- **Be clear:** Sloppy, poorly organized, or incoherent speeches aren't chosen, either.

If your speech is chosen:

- **Be flexible, open-minded, and available:** The selected speech will likely go through revision for final polish, and we will take the time to coach the selected speaker on effective public speaking. Be ready, willing and available to work with the NVC speech professor on the selection committee.
- **Relax!** Don't worry about being nervous! Some of Napa Valley College's best and most memorable commencement speeches were made by graduates afraid of public speaking.