

December 14, 2017

***A Call for Keynote Speakers!***

Dear Self Advocacy Coordinators, Self-Advocates and Allies,

We are planning for the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Self Advocacy Conference** to be held at **The Sheraton Hotel in Springfield MA on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 4:00pm**. This is an annual event in our region that draws self advocates from across the state.

As we are planning for this event, we are seeking a **Keynote Speaker** who:

- Identifies as a self advocate with a story to share
- Wants to make a difference
- Is comfortable with telling his/her story and has support to do so
- Identifies with the disability movement
- Has a sense of humor and likes to inspire others
- Is connected to the Self Advocacy movement

**We know the best way to find the right person is to ASK!** Do you know someone who would be a Keynote speaker for our Spring Self Advocacy Conference? This year's Theme is: **"Choosing our Journey"**. This reflects the importance of self-determination in the self-advocacy movement. The keynote speech should reflect the theme.

**We would greatly appreciate your willingness to bring this invitation to anyone within the Self Advocacy community who may be interested.** We believe that this is a unique opportunity for a self advocate to assume an important leadership role.

It is possible to have one or more individuals present their story individually or as a team. We will provide a stipend for the individual(s) selected to keynote. The conference planning committee will review applications and select the best candidate(s). **Suggested time for the keynote should be a 25-30 minute speech and allow 15 minutes for Questions and Answers, to total about 45 minutes.**

Feel free to contact us to discuss further details. Please see attached flyer for submitting a keynote proposal.

If you know of someone who is interested, please have this person contact us with his/her own resume and personal statement **by February 1, 2018!**

Thank you for considering this opportunity! On behalf of West Region Self Advocacy,  
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# Keynote Speaker Application

If you are interested in applying for the key note, please provide a resume and a one page personal statement. These forms are meant to help west-region self-advocates get to know you and your story. You are welcome to send in other material to enhance your story (pictures of you, art, stories, hobbies).

## Resume

Include any experience with employment, volunteering, leadership and education. Please provide your name and contact information so we can reach you (e-mail, phone number, address).

## Personal Statement

Write a descriptive narrative about yourself and the story you want to share with West-region Self-advocates. Please think about our theme “Choosing our Journey” when writing your statement. Ideas to guide the statement: What “Journeys” in your life have brought you to where you are today? How has self-determination impacted your life path? What can other self-advocates learn from your journey?

You are not required to follow a specific format for your personal statement, so be creative and have fun with it!

## Enhancement Material

Self-advocates will select the keynote. If you would like to provide a picture, story, art, or video please add that to your submission.

***Applications are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. No late submissions will be accepted.***