

December 21, 2018

A Call for Keynote Speakers!

Dear Self Advocates and Allies,

We are planning for the **16th Annual West Region Self Advocacy Conference** to be held at **The Sheraton Hotel in Springfield MA on Saturday May 18th 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! **Would you or someone you know like to be the Keynote speaker for our Self Advocacy Conference?**

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 speak.** The conference planning committee will review applications and select the best candidate(s). **The keynote speaker(s) should plan to speak for 15-30 minutes, with an additional 10-15 minutes for questions, for a total of up to 45 minutes.**

Please see attached application, and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

The deadline for submissions is **February 1, 2019!**

Thank you for considering this opportunity! On behalf of West Region Self Advocacy,
Ness Bellini, West Region Self-Advocacy Coordinator
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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 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.

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 1st, 2019. No late submissions will be accepted.