2023-2024 I AM STEM Student Speaking Contest

Eligibility
1. This Student Speaking Contest is open to any undergraduate student or graduate student in the Eberly College of Science and will consist of two rounds.
   - Round 1 requires the email submission of a written essay and a 60-second video.
   - Successful candidates from Round 1 will be invited to participate in Round 2 and to give a 5- to 7-minute presentation in person.
2. Note: Level of education (i.e., whether you're an undergrad or grad student) is not considered in any of the judging - so don't let any feelings of "I'm not experienced enough to give advice" stop you! Our winners are the students who most effectively craft their story in a way that inspires others...they aren't necessarily those who have accomplished the most already!
3. Prior 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the competition are not eligible to compete in future years.

Prizes
Winners will receive Amazon Gift Cards in the following amounts:

1st Place: $250 -- 2nd Place: $150 -- 3rd Place: $100

In addition to the gift card prizes, the 1st and 2nd place winners will have the prestigious opportunity to be Keynote Speakers at ENVISION: STEM Career Day Supporting Young Women on February 24, 2024! The Science Outreach staff, and other science communication professionals, will help the winners develop the 10- to 15-minute keynote speeches once the contest is concluded.

Dates and Timeline
- Tuesday, October 31, 2023 - Round 1 submissions (essay and video) are due by 5 p.m. via email.
- Tuesday, November 7, 2023 - Results of the Round 1 contest will be emailed to participants. Candidates advancing to Round 2 will be provided with additional information.
- Tuesday, November 28, 2023: Candidates advancing to Round 2 will give a 5- to 7-minute presentation between 5:00-7:00 p.m. Round 2 will take place in a science classroom, and dinner will be provided.
- Friday, December 1, 2023: Winners of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place categories will be announced!

Instructions for Round 1
1. Write a short essay (300-500 words) to the following prompt: Being a science student is not easy, and sometimes little moments of fascination and delight are what keep us moving when the going gets tough. Describe a moment when something you learned or experienced in a science context made an impact on you. What made that moment unforgettable and motivating? How does that science moment tie in with your larger science journey here at Penn State? What advice would you give to other aspiring science students based on this experience?
2. Create a 60-second introductory video in response to the following prompt: imagine you are in front of a roomful of middle/high school students and parents who have never met you... Provide a “movie trailer” type of presentation telling them about yourself and making them eager to hear more about you and your science journey!
3. Email both parts of your submission to Shauni Collins at svc6539@psu.edu or to the Outreach team at outreach@science.psu.edu by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.
   - Please email your written response as a Word or PDF document.
   - Your video entry may be emailed or shared in a OneDrive folder.
Evaluation criteria for Round 1
All entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges from the Eberly College of Science, based on the criteria below. Results will be announced by November 7, 2023.

1. Short (300-500) Written Essay (20 pts):
   a. Meets Content and Length Requirements - 5 pts
   b. Compelling, Inspirational, and Accessible Message - 5 pts
   c. Clear, Logical Organization - 5 pts
   d. Writing Ability - 5 pts
2. 60-Second Video (15 pts): *Please note that you are NOT being evaluated on your video production abilities! This is a way for us to gauge your abilities as a speaker, not as a videographer! *
   a. Meets Content and Length Requirements - 5 pts
   b. Speaking Presence (e.g., tone, pace of speaking, eye contact) - 5 pts
   c. Ability to Engage and Inspire Audience - 5 pts

Instructions for Round 2
Candidates who are selected to advance to Round 2 will be asked to prepare a 5- to 7-minute, in-person, mini-keynote speech and to present to a small audience on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 between 5:00-7:00 p.m.
All presentations will be evaluated by a panel of judges from the Eberly College of Science based on the criteria below. Winners of the Round 2 presentation will be announced by Friday, December 1, 2023. The top two winners will be invited to be the Keynote Speakers at the ENVISION event.

Evaluation criteria for Round 2
5- to 7-Minute, In-person Presentation on November 28, 2023. (70 pts):

1. Content (30 pts)
   a. Meets Content and Length Requirements - 10 pts
   b. Clear, Logical Organization - 10 pts
   c. Inspirational, Authentic, and Accessible Messages - 10 pts
2. Presence and Delivery (30 pts)
   a. In-person Presence - 10 pts
   b. Speaking Mechanics (e.g., tone, pace of speaking, eye contact) - 10 pts
   c. Accompanying Visuals - 10 pts
3. Overall Fit (10 pts)
   a. Overall fit for ENVISION: STEM Career Day Keynote - 10 pts

Questions
Please reach out to the Science Outreach team (outreach@science.psu.edu) or Shaunia Collins (svc6539@psu.edu) with any questions! We look forward to hearing about you and your science journey!