**CAH Spring 2018 Student Commencement Speaker Competition**

An undergraduate student speaker representing the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) will be featured during the *Spring 2018 Commencement* *noon ceremony on Saturday, May 5*. The 2018 CAH Student Commencement Speaker Competition will determine the student selected for this honor.

**Commencement Speaker Eligibility:** Any undergraduate student with a major in the College of Arts and Humanities with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher for courses taken at EIU and who plans to graduate Spring 2018 may apply.

A faculty committee will read and rank essays. The top 3 to 5 students will be asked to deliver their essay in an oral competition in April 2018. The final selection of the student commencement speaker and an alternate will be made based on the quality of the written essay and the oral presentation.

**Submission of materials:**

• **Student role:** To compete for the position a student must submit a written essay to the College of Arts and Humanities by  **4:00PM on Monday, February 12** and include an endorsement letter from a faculty mentor. Please submit materials electronically to Jennifer Spracklen ([jdspracklen@eiu.edu](mailto:jdspracklen@eiu.edu)) in the CAH Dean's Office.

• **Faculty role:** Students seeking to submit essays will identify a faculty mentor to assist with the project. Mentors may include course instructors, advisors, or any member of the faculty who will provide guidance and support appropriate to writing an effective essay. Please provide the student with your endorsement letter. Faculty who serve in mentor roles will introduce the Student Commencement Speaker at the Commencement ceremony.

**Essay guidelines:**

• **2018 Essay Theme:**

*Explain how the new knowledge that you gained through research, creative exploration, or community-based learning at Eastern Illinois University will shape your life and continue to guide your future.*

• **Essay Length:** Essays are limited to 3 pages or a word count of less than 1000 words.

• **Essay Format:** The first page should include the essay title, author's name and E-number, and degree program. The essay's author should use a standard 12-point font, standard one-inch margins, and double spacing. Essays are submitted electronically.

**Remember the oral presentation of the essay will be equally important, so consider how the essay will sound when spoken.** The content of your essay will be personal, but it should also be able to resonate with the commencement audience, which are your fellow students and their families.

There is a $250.00 stipend for the speaker and a $100.00 stipend for the alternate. Please direct any questions you may have to Interim Associate Dean Christopher Mitchell at [cjmitchell@eiu.edu](mailto:cjmitchell@eiu.edu).