



2025 TERRY FOUNDATION ALUMNI SPEAKER GUIDELINES.

1. Goal

Banquet speeches should **inspire and motivate** our Scholars. Speeches should appeal to a general audience of students at all levels (freshmen through senior) and many different majors. Fellow Terry Alumni and university guests will also be in attendance. Please note that the **virtual event on November 6th will have an audience that is all Terry Alumni**. The speaker at that event should still plan to deliver a motivational, inspiring speech, but the audience composition should be considered.

To accommodate the diverse crowd at each event, we request that speeches not be political or religious in nature.

2. Length of Speech

To keep our program on schedule, Alumni speakers should limit their speeches to **10 -15 minutes**.

3. Annual Theme

The theme for this year's Terry Banquet speeches is "Leadership." We all lead in different capacities and with different styles. Sometimes, leadership comes with a title, but it is most often demonstrated through action and achieving a result, regardless of a title. What would you tell your fellow Terry Scholars about leadership? We have provided some topic ideas to help you plan your speech proposal.

- A. How do *you* define leadership and how has the leadership of others impacted you personally or professionally? What lessons have you learned?
- B. Who have been influential leaders in your life, and how have their examples inspired you?
- C. How have you discovered your individual abilities as a leader? Do you have stories or advice from your personal journey?
- D. What advice would you give someone who is unsure about their ability to lead in a new space?
- E. What are some misconceptions about leadership that you wish you had known as a student or young professional? How have you changed as a leader over time?
- F. What would you tell your Terry Interview Panel and/or Mr. Terry about the way you have used the opportunities provided by the Terry Scholarship and applied your leadership abilities to impact others?

4. Required Speech Proposal

All potential speakers must present a speech proposal to the Foundation when they complete the sign-up form. All speech proposals must contain the following:

- **File saved with your first name and last name in the title** (*Microsoft Word Document or PDF*)
- **Your name, Terry school, and Terry year at the top of the page**
- **A brief paragraph or outline of your speech's main idea and why you chose your topic**
*Your speech does **not** have to be completely finalized by the time you complete the sign-up form, but The Foundation needs a **clear idea of what you intend to share if you are selected as a speaker**. If you are one of the finalists being considered, the Foundation will contact you for a more detailed outline.*

5. Travel

We do not want travel costs to prohibit participation. Travel reimbursement up to a maximum stipend of \$250 will be available upon request. If needed, a hotel room will be provided at the same location where Terry staff stay for the event.

6. Placement at the Events

At Banquets, Alumni speakers have the option to be seated at the head table or with a table of Terry students for dinner. After dinner, the program will include remarks by Foundation board members, university representatives, and students. The Alumni speaker will then be introduced as the principal speaker of the evening. After the speech, a representative from the Foundation will conclude the program.

At the Virtual Alumni Gathering, the Alumni speaker will join the Foundation staff a few minutes early to ensure clear audio and video. The program will begin with remarks from the Foundation followed by an introduction of the speaker. After the speech, attendees will disperse into randomly assigned breakout rooms to meet other Terrys from across the country. The speaker will be assigned to a room and may participate in the social aspects of the evening with everyone else.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Our Terry Scholar community is very diverse, with students and alumni from different areas of Texas, different backgrounds (race, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, etc.) and varying kinds of support systems.

Speakers should consider how their speech topic and remarks will be received by Scholars from all backgrounds and aim to be inclusive.

Focus on the characteristics that all Terry Scholars have in common based on our selection process, which has resulted in a diverse background of highly driven and talented individuals who needed help to attain a debt-free college education and accomplish their goals.

SPEAKER RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION TIMELINE

July 30th

Banquet Speaker Information Session on Zoom

August 1st – August 29th

Terry Alumni invited to submit their speaker proposals.

August 30th – September 9th

The Foundation will contact potential speakers to request additional details and confirm speakers for their banquets. **Goal: all Alumni speakers confirmed by September 9th.**

September 10th Onward

The Foundation will work with each speaker to finalize their presentation and travel itinerary. Speakers will also be asked to submit a speaker bio to be read as an introduction. The Virtual Gathering Speaker will also be requested to submit a recording of their speech as a contingency option.

All arrangements should be finalized no later than one week before the speaker's event.

FALL 2025 BANQUET SCHEDULE

Monday, September 29th – UT El Paso (El Paso, TX)

Thursday, October 2nd – Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)

Monday, October 6th – UT Arlington (Arlington, TX)

Tuesday, October 7th – UT Dallas (Richardson, TX)

Wednesday, October 8th – Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX)

Thursday, October 9th – University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

Tuesday, October 14th – Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

Wednesday, October 15th – University of Houston (Houston, TX)

Monday, October 27th – UT San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)

Wednesday, October 29th – UT Austin (Austin, TX)

Thursday, October 30th – Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)

Thursday, November 6th – Fall Virtual Alumni Gathering (Zoom) **Please note that this is an Alumni audience.**