Welcome to the ICIC Annual Conference Alumni Speaker Contest! We are excited to hear your brilliant ideas and inspiring stories. Below are the guidelines for submitting your talk and the steps to take to have it featured on the Main Stage in Miami, Florida.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS**

**Step 1: Initial Submission**

Submit your topic, title, and abstract by August 31 through the conference’s official submission portal. The top 10 contestants will be determined by a popular vote and notified that they have moved to semi-finalist the week of **October 9**.

- **Topic**: Summarize your talk in up to two sentences.
- **Title**: This should grab the attention of the audience.
- **Abstract Requirements**: Keep your abstract (summary of your talk) concise and focused, with a limit of 200 words that describe your main points and key takeaways. Also, highlight how your presentation relates to the conference’s theme.

**Step 2: Semi-finalist Submission**

If you are chosen as a semi-finalist, you will receive an invitation to create a 60-second video to introduce yourself and your business, briefly summarize your talk, and persuade the audience why you are the best choice to speak on the main stage. The deadline for submissions is **October 27**.
Step 3: Finalist Submission

If selected as one of the three finalists, you will be invited to submit a video of your full speech.

ELIGIBILITY

1. **ICIC Alumni**: This contest is open to ICIC alumni in the following programs: ICIC’s Building for Growth (BFG), Santander’s Cultivate Small Business (CSB), ICIC’s Inner City Capital Connections (ICCC), Inner City 100 Awards (IC100), Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB).

2. **Conference Registration**: All contestants must be registered for the conference to participate in the contest. Alums can register for free using the promo code issued by email.

3. **No Promotional Content**: The talk should not be promotional for any product, service, or organization.

4. **Length**: The talk must be a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes.

5. **Travel**: The speaker must be available and committed to attending the conference in Miami, Florida, on December 11 and 12, 2023.

6. **Single Entry**: Participants are only allowed one submission for the contest.

TALK GUIDELINES

- **Choose** an innovative, groundbreaking idea that has the potential to inspire, educate, or change perspectives.

- **Ensure** that the topic is relevant to the conference theme, “Reflect, Reunite, Renew,” and is tailored to the audience of entrepreneurs and leaders.

- **Incorporate** personal stories and insights to make the talk more relatable and engaging for the audience.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Originality and Creativity**
  The uniqueness and creativity of the topic and its presentation.

- **Impact and Relevance**
  The potential impact of the idea and its relevance to the conference theme.

- **Engaging Presentation**
  The ability to captivate and engage the audience through storytelling, visuals, or other presentation techniques.
DEADLINES & KEY DATES

- **August 31**: Initial entry deadline
- **September 29-October 6**: Popular vote to determine semi-finalists
  - The Semi-finalists will be notified by the week of October 9.
- **October 27**: Semi-finalists’ submission deadline
- **November 10**: Finalists informed
- **November 17-December 1**: Final popular vote to determine the Main Stage speaker
  - Main Stage speaker selected and notified by the week of December 4

SELECTION PROCESS

**Stage 1: Internal Review**
Submissions will be reviewed for thematic relevance and eligibility. If selected, the contestant will advance to the next stage.

**Stage 2: Popular Vote**
Voting will be open to the public from September 5-22 to select the top 10 semi-finalists.

**Stage 3: Alumni Leadership & Board Panel**
Alumni judges will evaluate the submissions and select the top 3 finalists.

**Stage 4: Final Popular Vote**
Voting will again be open to the public to select the Main Stage speaker.

FINAL PRESENTATION

1. **Duration**: The final selected speaker will have 10-12 minutes for their live presentation during the conference.
2. **Presentation Support**: Technical support and assistance will be provided to ensure smooth delivery.
3. **Honorarium**: $500 will be awarded to the contest winner.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and witnessing the power of your ideas at the inaugural ICIC Annual Conference Alumni Speaker Contest. Good luck!