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Aurora resident is semifinalist in the world's largest speech contest

Aurora, Co., July 24, 2018 — Kaysee Loveless, of Aurora, Co., outshined more than seven local contestants to win the district-level competition of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. Loveless advances to the semifinal rounds of the contest, vying for one of 10 spots in the World Championship of Public Speaking® to be held at the Toastmasters International Convention Saturday, Aug. 25 in Chicago, Il.

Loveless, a member of Aurorators Toastmasters club [https://2136.toastmastersclubs.org], in Aurora, Co., surpassed fierce competition to win over the judges with her speech, "All That Matters." The speech touched on the themes of failure, forgiveness and love, touching the lives of many in the audience, even bringing a tear to a few eyes. When it comes to connecting with an audience, she said, "Some of the most relatable and compelling speeches are derived from our own stories. The key is resonance - that when you tell your story, your audience members recognize their own. That is the goal and the reward."

Loveless will compete with 105 other winners from districts around the world who advanced to the 2018 semifinal round after a six-month process of elimination through club, area, division and district speech competitions. Their five- to seven-minute speeches were judged on content, organization, gestures and style.

"Participating in the international speech contests has been a humbling and surreal experience. Toastmasters has helped me become a stronger speaker, introduced me to incredibly talented and supportive people, and pushed me out of my comfort zone in the most extraordinary way." says Kayse. "I am honored to be able to represent District 26 Toastmasters in Chicago." Loveless is employed in a corporate office in Englewood, Colorado. She joined Toastmasters to become a better speaker and leader at work and in the community.

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest began in 1938 and is the world's largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 141 countries. It culminates with the popular World Championship of Public Speaking held annually at the organization's International Convention.

To interview Loveless, learn more about the contest or Toastmasters club membership, contact Trixie Hunter-Merrill at prm1819@d26leaders.org. Follow <u>@Toastmasters</u> International on Twitter to track Loveless's progress.

About District 26 Toastmasters

District 26 is one of 106 Districts which comprises more than 190 corporate and community clubs in Region 4. To learn more about District 26, please visit: https://www.d26toastmasters.org

About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 352,000 in more than 16,400 clubs in 141 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow @Toastmasters on Twitter.