

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 50 SPRING CONFERENCE

MAKING CONNECTIONS MATTER



DTM CEREMONY

MAY 15, 2021

“Nothing of significance was ever achieved by an individual acting alone. Look below the surface and you will find that all seemingly solo acts are really team efforts.”

~ John C. Maxwell

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Presentation of District 50

Spring Class of 2021 Distinguished Toastmasters

<i>Senior 3:</i>	<i>District Director Monica Dirden, DTM</i>
	<i>Program Quality Director Walter Price, DTM</i>
	<i>Club Growth Director Kristy Pedersen, DTM</i>

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Congratulations on achieving your goal!



As Toastmasters, you gained the skills necessary to improve your communication and leadership abilities as a method of self-improvement. You achieved your own goals in the legacy education program and then valiantly moved forward by embracing the Pathways Education Program.

But you didn't stop there! You have shown all of us what it takes to not only survive, but to THRIVE in times of crisis. And while studies have shown that less than 1% of all Toastmasters world-wide have successfully completed **all of the communication and leadership requirements** to achieve the rank and title of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM), **YOU** not only achieved the rank of DTM, but you showed that by maintaining your focus and remaining diligent you can achieve your goals despite the challenges of this present age.

You completed all the requirements to achieve the title of DISTINGUISHED TOASTMASTER. For some of you, this is your first DTM; while for others, it is your second or third. Yet it is not just the achievement of your first, second or third DTM; but it is the common bond shared by the sincere appreciation for those who have helped others on their DTM journey.

The path was laid out; there were signs and markers (tasks) along the way that outlined things that you needed to do. But there also was friends, mentors, and encouragers who helped guide you on your journey. When you look back and recount all the things that you have done, you realized that this was no small accomplishment. In the beginning you did not think that you could do all of this; **but you did!** **YOU** set goals, obtained mentors and accountability partners, completed your speeches, served as a leader in your Club and District, and learned how to manage projects through hands-on application. Now is the time where we – your District 50 Toastmasters family – celebrate with you and applaud you for joining the elite family of District 50's DTMs.

Thank you for all that you have done to share your confidence, composure, and leadership skills during this time. Thank you for showing us how to look beyond the crisis and achieve our goals. It is now your turn as a DTM to leave a legacy by mentoring the next great leaders of District 50. Keep shining your light, keep learning and growing, and keep moving forward!

Naomi Lawler, DTM
DTM Ceremony Chair



**Nikhil Agrawal,
Distinguished Toastmaster**



FIRST DTM AWARD

When did you join Toastmasters? 2011

Which is the name of your home club? HARMAN Loudspeakers

What is the Division where your home club is located? Plains Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? No

Which club received your DTM award? HARMAN Loudspeakers

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now?
Engaging Humor

Which district offices have you held? Area Director

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Monica Dirden, Kristy Pedersen

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life? It has helped me become a confident public speaker and leader at work and in my community. I have been able to inspire many people to become Toastmasters along with chartering new clubs.

What's next? Make public speaking a way of life and use the techniques I've learnt in my daily use.



Louis Burns, Distinguished Toastmaster



1st Pathways DTM

When did you join Toastmasters? 2000

What is the name of your home club? JSOM Friday Toastmasters

What is the Division where your home club is located? Vista Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? No

Which club received your DTM award? JSOM Friday Toastmasters

How many DTMs have you achieved? This is my 3rd DTM overall, but it is my first DTM in Pathways.

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now?
Engaging Humor

Which district offices have you held? Area Director, Division Director, Austin Marketing Manager (all in District 55)

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Priya Mekala – our former club VPE and President who helped me with the SpeechCraft.

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life? I've been a Toastmaster most of my adult life. I was painfully awkward and a poor communicator before joining. The difference in my life is like day and night; I'm a different person because of Toastmasters. The time and effort invested in Toastmasters has been one of my best life experiences.

What's next? Help rebuild our club as we transition back to hybrid and in-person meetings.



**Jyothi Srinivas
Charyulu,
Distinguished Toastmaster**



FIRST DTM AWARD

When did you join Toastmasters? March 2006

What is the name of your home club? Fusion Toastmasters

What is the Division where your home club is located? Town North Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? No

Which club received your DTM award? Fusion Toastmasters 614471

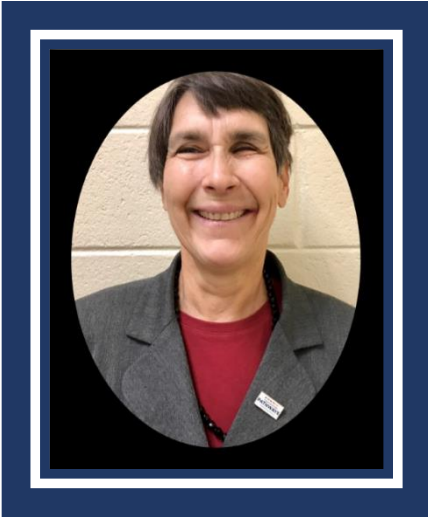
Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now? Pathways Coach

Which district offices have you held? Vista Division - Area 72 Director

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Bonnie Crawford from District 25, Roger Fung from District 50 – Fusion Toastmasters

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life? I have grown personally and professionally due to Toastmasters.

What's next? Continue coaching and inspiring myself and others to be the best, and to tap into my potential.



**Hazel B. Cotton,
Distinguished Toastmaster**



1st Pathways DTM

When did you join Toastmasters? 1985-1992, 2005 to present

What is the name of your home club? University Club 7036

What is the Division where your home club is located? Eastern Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? Yes

List the name of any other clubs(s) in which you are a member. Solid Rock 1100434, Super Saturday 7026328, and Conquerors Club 584009

Which club received your DTM award? Solid Rock 1100434

How many DTMs have you achieved? 3

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now?
Conquerors Club Coach, Effective Coaching and Team Collaboration

Which district offices have you held? Past Area 11 Director (2 ½ times),
Pathways Ambassador

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? John Fooks, Henry Jackson, Brenda Rochelle, Leola Dixon, Max Taylor, Kyle and Cindy Elkins, Angelina Simmons, Naomi Lawler, DaWane Wanek

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life? You have no idea, 100% for the better. BTM (Before Toastmasters), I was shy, introverted, with no confidence. Now, I can, and do, talk to anybody and never met a stranger. I discovered I could be a leader and that has

changed my life for the better, along with increased confidence. I was floundering. Now, I have a clear direction in life and am not afraid to set and achieve goals. As a life changer, Toastmasters ranks up there with becoming a Christian and discovering car racing.

What's next? I'll finish the projects and paths I am currently working on and start others, plus Youth Leadership for this summer, a requirement for DTM #4.



Pranab Das,
Distinguished Toastmaster



FIRST DTM AWARD

When did you join Toastmasters? 2016

What is the name of your home club? Roaring Speakers

What is the Division where your home club is located? Frontier Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? No

Which club received your DTM award? Roaring Speakers

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now?
Leadership

Which district offices have you held? Area Director

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Yvonne Broach

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life? It has given me better speaking skills.

What's next? Improve more.



**Stephanie Hobart,
Distinguished Toastmaster**



FIRST DTM AWARD

When did you join Toastmasters? 2012

What is the name of your home club? Chattering Chesters

What is the Division where your home club is located? Town North Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? Yes

List the name of any other clubs(s) in which you are a member. The Evaluators

Which club received your DTM award? Chattering Chesters

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now? Presentation Mastery

Which district offices have you held? Area 63 Director

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Manny Garcia

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life?
Toastmasters has provided me with an opportunity to share my joy of public speaking, and to help others improve their own public speaking skills. This is an essential life skill and one that everyone should have available to them.

What's next? A TED talk! One of the reasons for pursuing my DTM was to get more comfortable with speaking in a variety of settings and formats, and now I want to give a TED talk! I am still thinking through possible topics, but stay tuned!



Ram Venkat,
Distinguished Toastmaster



FIRST DTM AWARD

When did you join Toastmasters? June 2018

What is the name of your home club? CruiseMasters

What is the Division where your home club is located? Frontier Division

Are there any other clubs in which you are a member? No

Which club received your DTM award? CruiseMasters

Which Toastmasters project(s) or path(s) are you working on now?
Innovative Planning Level 1

Which district offices have you held? Area 67 Director (2019-2020), TLI Chair (2020-2021)

Which Toastmasters have helped you the most on your journey to completing your DTM? Deepa Venkat, DTM; Eric Wardle, PM4

How has Toastmasters and your journey to DTM changed your life?

Although I started Toastmasters for conquering my fear of public speaking, what I have gained the most is that it has vastly improved my self-confidence and leadership skills in the last 3 years. Toastmasters gave me a platform to plan, practice and persist as I began this clumsy ride. It is a safe place where I made mistakes and still got rounds of applause every time I walked to that lectern. I think I am a better leader because of the accomplished speakers and leader I've met and from

whom I learnt tremendously. I am also enjoying being able to mentor my club members and assist them with their own Toastmasters journey.

What's next? Encourage and help my club members gain their DTM.

Additional DTMs
Awarded Winter 2020 – Spring 2021
(no questionnaire received – unable to attend)

Sharon Denice Calloway, DTM

Congratulations!

And there are MORE opportunities to
Make Connections by continuing the next
phase of your journey!



GO AND GROW!!

