

Empowerment Academy Winter 2022 Leadership Awards **Darcy Castro, Executive Director**

Contestant Handbook & Agreement for Participation

Welcome!

The Empowerment Academy Leadership Awards are an opportunity to let your enthusiasm for the pageant industry shine! The competition elements are designed to not only showcase your leadership in the pageant industry, but help you to polish your skills as you continue on your journey.

Participating in the Empowerment Academy Leadership Awards competition will be a great addition to your pageant and professional resume. This is not a pageant! You are participating in a competition that will select winners that will be recognized for their leadership in and passion for the pageant industry.

The competition will be held in a virtual format, which allows for greater accessibility and participation. Appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request. Awards given will be determined by number of applications received.

Prizes



Winners will receive a plaque, commemorative crown pin, scholarship to the Empowerment Academy and an opportunity to be a guest on an episode of Empowerment Academy TV.



All participants will receive a certificate and be included in the 2022 Empowerment Academy Showcase Magazine.

Contestant Criteria

- Girls, women and transwomen ages 12+ are eligible to apply
- All abilities welcome, and accommodations will be provided if necessary
- There are no residency requirements. Contestants from around the globe are welcome to compete, but should be English proficient or have access to adequate translation services
- Must comply by the Code of Conduct and must sign the Agreement for Participation

Competition Elements

Interview (Contestants will participate in a recorded interview via Zoom)
1-page essay "How I have benefited from pageantry and how we can make the industry better"

Contestant pageant resume/fact sheet

A creative piece in the medium of your choice showcasing the positive benefits of pageantry

How to Enter

Submit an application at DarcyCastro.com. Upon full payment, you will receive a confirmation email of your acceptance and instructions on how to schedule your interview.

You must submit the following materials to Info@DarcyCastro.com **no later than 5pm ET Friday, February 4:**

- Essay
- Resume/fact sheet
- Creative piece
- Headshot (for reference, not a judged element)

Judging

The Empowerment Academy panel of experts will score each contestant's full competition package. Judges decisions are final. Criteria is as follows:

- Effort and enthusiasm
- Evidence of positive impact on the pageant community
- Leadership skills and/or potential for leadership
- Communication skills
- Passion for the industry and improving pageantry
- Polish, poise and professionalism

Pricing

\$79 registration fee. That's it! No hidden fees.

A \$10 discount is offered to all current Empowerment Academy Signature Program Delegates and Spokesmodels.

Empowerment Academy scholarship funds may be applied.

New referrals will also count towards the Empowerment Academy Ambassador Program!

Important Dates to Remember

- * Registration, fee and all materials are due by February 4th at 5pm ET
- * Interviews will be scheduled as soon as all materials are received, and must be scheduled by February 9th
- * Final results will be announced February 18th

Rules

- All fees are non-refundable.

- Required materials not submitted by the due date will result in contestant disqualification.
- All participants must hold harmless and release any claim against the Empowerment Academy and Darcy Castro Productions LLC, and any related companies, sponsors and staff.
- Agree that all judges' decisions are final and binding.
- By participating, contestants give permission for use of their images in Darcy Castro Productions LLC marketing and to have their participation appear in the final announcement.

Code of Conduct

- Contestants and their families must represent the program with integrity and a positive attitude.
- Gossip, negative or untrue communications/postings, or other inappropriate actions, may result in disqualification.
- Contestants must pledge to follow the Empowerment Academy core values of integrity, kindness and respect.
- Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.
- Contestants may not publish photos of themselves representing the organization in which they are consuming alcohol, tobacco or any other controlled substance, and must always represent the organization publicly in good taste.

About the Empowerment Academy

The mission of the Empowerment Academy is to give participants a path to identify their goals, visualize their highest potential and strive to be the best versions of themselves, in an environment that supports their personal and professional goals.

About Darcy Castro

Leader, author and on-air personality, Darcy Castro creates content that speaks to the hearts of women from all walks of life. Her Empowerment Academy and #StrongWomenStrongWorld initiative foster a climate of growth and respect for women of all identities to realize their potential as changemakers, both in their own lives in their communities. Her diverse life experiences and professional background have made her a force in the pageant industry and beyond. Come for the sparkle, leave with confidence. That's the Darcy Castro experience. Learn more at DarcyCastro.com.