Saddleback’s Speech and Debate Team Competes in Two Weekend Tournaments

Mission Viejo, CA-- The Saddleback College Speech and Debate Team is pleased to announce two impressive tournament results. On February 17-19, Saddleback’s Speech and Debate Team competed at the 2017 Tabor-Venitsky and Southern California LD Championships at Cerritos College. This competition was attended by over 20 community colleges and four-year universities. On February 24-26, the team competed in the 2017 PSCFA Spring Regional Championships in Long Beach. This tournament was attended by 34 community colleges and four-year universities.

Heidi Ochoa stated, “Our students and coaches put in between 30-60 hours over two weekends advocating for socially significant issues that impact the lives of many at the Cerritos and Spring Championship tournaments. Our students spoke about several concepts and issues, including mitochondria disease therapy, doll therapy, prison conditions, and mental health pedagogy. Several of our speeches were rewarded with trophies, which is a testament of our team work ethic and our compassion for caring for others with our voices. We look forward to sharing our speeches at the State and National tournament.”

Here are the results:

**Tabor-Venitsky and Southern California LD Championships**

Jack McMenamin: Finalist in Novice Impromptu, Finalist in Novice Informative
Eli Drummond: 1st place, novice impromptu.
Brandon Currie: Finalist novice impromptu
Haley Aufill: 2nd place, novice persuasive
Bret Landon: 1st place novice persuasion
Chris Russo: Finalist, novice dramatic interpretation
Joel Reise: 3rd place novice extemporaneous speaking
Westley Stone and Brandon Currie: Bronze Medal Novice Parliamentary Debate
Jack McMenamin and Eli Drummond: Silver Medal, Novice Parliamentary Debate
Hayley Aufill: Bronze Medal, Novice IPDA Debate
Westley Stone: Bronze Medal, Novice IPDA Debate
Brandon Currie: Bronze Medal, Novice IPDA Debate
Joel Reise: Silver Medal, Novice IPDA Debate
Eli Drummond: Gold Medal, Novice IPDA Debate

PSCFA Spring Regional Championship
Jack McMenamin: Bronze Medal IPDA Debate, 3rd place Speaker Award, 3rd place novice informative, Bronze Medal Junior Parliamentary Debate
Joel Reise: 3rd place Junior extemporaneous
Natalie Cunningham: 2nd Novice Informative
Kiana Hertogh: Finalist Novice Informative
Janiel Vicotorino: Finalist Novice Informative
Erica Delamare: 1st Novice Informative
Ali Butz: 3rd place Novice Prose
Vivian Vilchis: 3rd place Open Prose
Lindsey Bouchard: 2nd place Novice Dramatic Interpretation
Eli Drummond: 2nd place Junior Impromptu, Bronze Medal Parliamentary Debate, 2nd Place Speaker Award
Brandon Currie: Finalist Novice Impromptu
Bret Landon: Finalist Junior Persuasive
Danielle Walker: 1st place Novice Persuasive
Matthew Paradee: Finalist Novice Persuasive

The Saddleback Forensics Team started in the 1970s and prides itself on offering students the ability to create innovative arguments for future writing and speaking engagements to strengthen their critical thinking skills and to better communicate with others. On the forensics team, students write, rehearse, and perform at 6-7 tournaments against students from Universities and Community Colleges to qualify for the national tournament. The students representing Saddleback at the national tournament have placed above several competitors representing institutions throughout the year, including: Concordia University, Point Loma, California State University, Los Angeles, California State University, Long Beach, and UCLA.

Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers over 300 degree and certificate programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit www.saddleback.edu and for Fine Arts information, please visit www.saddleback.edu/arts.

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