Saddleback’s Speech and Debate Team Compete in State Championships.

Woodland Hills, CA-- Fresh off taking 3rd at the their Regional Championship tournament the Saddleback Speech and Debate Team had an excellent showing at the 2017 CCCFA State Championship tournament. Prior to state, the Director of Forensics of Concordia University, Konrad Hack, came by to recruit students for their program. Former team president, Taylor Sickle, currently attends Concordia and former team member and volunteer coach, Dante Johnson, will be attending this year having received a partial forensics scholarship. Former team member and volunteer coach, Tyler Kline is preparing to transfer to Carroll College in Helena, Mt. on a partial forensics scholarship as well. Carroll is where Co-Director of Forensics, Shawn O’Rourke, competed as an undergraduate.

Shawn O’Rourke, Co-Director of Forensics stated, “I am incredibly proud of the team we have put together this year. This was a rebuilding year and through hard work and countless hours of preparation the coaches and students have done tremendous things. I am honored to be a part of this program and am humbled by dedication of the faculty, staff, and competitors. Our students have represented the school with honor and dignity, and I am excited for the opportunities that their hard work has opened for them as they prepare to transfer to four year programs and universities.”

The tournament was hosted by Moorpark College in Woodland Hills and was attended by over 20 community colleges from across California.

Tournament Results:

Bronze Medal – Reader’s Theater, The Cave, starring Vivian Vilchis, Chris Russo, and Natalie Dailey
Bronze Medal – Parliamentary Debate: Haley Aufill and Jack McMenamin
Bronze Medal – IPDA Debate: Jack McMenamin
Bronze Medal – IPDA Debate: Eli Drummond
Bronze Medal – IPDA Debate: Joel Reise
Silver Medal – Poetry: Chris Russo
Bronze Medal – Duo Interpretation: Corin Schreck and Daniel Bondi
Bronze Medal – Dramatic Interpretation: Chris Russo
Bronze Medal – Dramatic Interpretation: Natalie Dailey
Bronze Medal – Dramatic Interpretation: Corin Schreck

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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