



Newsletter

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State Legislators Celebrate Forensic Activities

March 1, 2019 was National Speech & Debate Education Day, and members of the State Legislature were joined by members of Milton HS's Speech team and WHSFA Executive Director Adam Jacobi. Pictured at right is Sen. Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) and at far right is Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee; a former student of Jacobi's) with Milton coach Shauna Wessely. WHSFA was presented with a joint resolution as well as a Governor's Proclamation.



NATIONAL
SPEECH AND DEBATE
EDUCATION DAY

State Theatre Results

This year, the WHSFA assumed operation of all programming for the Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival, which was held Nov. 15-17, 2018 at Viterbo University in La Crosse. Thirty eight schools participated in the one-act contest. Twenty two schools earned the esteemed *Critic's Choice* award:

School	Show	Director
Appleton North HS	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Ron Parker
Badger HS	<i>The Firecracker Incident</i>	Andrew Stoltenberg
Barneveld HS	<i>A Thousand Cranes</i>	Duane Draper
Bradford HS	<i>Children of Eden</i>	Holly A Stanfield
Catholic Memorial HS	<i>The Women of Lockerbie</i>	Chris Andacht
Gibraltar HS	<i>Death's Door</i>	Lizz & Kurt Thomas
Homestead HS	<i>The Cave</i>	Amelia Figg-Franzoi
Indian Trail HS	<i>Almost Maine</i>	Robert M Allen
Lake View Tech Acad	<i>Silent Sky</i>	Christi Geidner
Lincoln HS, Wis. Rapids	<i>This is a Test</i>	Sara Danke Lukaszewicz
Middleton HS	<i>Our Place</i>	Abbie Hannam
Neenah HS	<i>Breathless</i>	Aaron Hoffmann
Northwestern HS	<i>The Cry of the Peacock</i>	Mike Goodlet & Pat Luostari
Plymouth HS	<i>A Baseball Show</i>	Brad Feick
Reedsburg Area HS	<i>Tracks</i>	Jeffery Herschieb
Superior HS	<i>An absolutely true story (as told by a bunch of lying liars)</i>	Cheri Tesarek
Tomahawk HS	<i>Complaint Department and Lemonade</i>	Michele Balda
Tremper HS	<i>All My Sons</i>	Nicolas Cicerale
Waterford Union HS	<i>26 Pebbles</i>	Leigh Birmingham
Waukesha South HS	<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Kit Donahue & Erin Richards
Waukesha West HS	<i>Numbers</i>	Nathan Berish
West De Pere HS	<i>Booby Trap</i>	Maggie Gertz

STAGING THINGS

Additionally, 18 Directing, 30 Ensemble, 19 Crew, and 159 Acting awards were earned. Twenty six students earned superior ratings in the Thespian Individual Events, earning qualification to the International Thespian Festival at University of Nebraska Lincoln. Finally, Neenah and Dominican were top-performing schools in the Tech Olympics. Full results are available: wisconsintheatrefest.org.

Next year, full showcase productions return to the festival. Nominations are due toward the end of the current school year.



Debate Contest

In partnership with the 21st Century Debate Association, WHSFA held its annual debate contest at UW-Madison on December 8, 2018. Waupaca High School had an impressive showing, "closing out" the final round. Kayla Cain and Autumn Heisler prevailed over their teammates Jakob Koran and Allie Waite.



Coaches Honored for Excellence, Service



Patricia Luostari, teacher and speech coach at Northwestern High School in Maple, Wis. for more than 50 years, was honored with the **NFHS Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator Award**. Luostari said of interscholastic forensic contests, "if you worked hard, learned something, and had fun along the way, you won."



Andy Wolfe, teacher and speech coach at Superior High School, was honored with the **Lyn Luce Leadership Award**. Wolfe has been an English teacher, middle and high Speech coach for over a quarter-century, and student newspaper advisor for nearly two decades. Additionally, he helped coach Speech in Duluth, Minnesota, where nationally-respected coach Jill Lofald speaks highly of Wolfe's "heart for kids and our activity." He served several years as a regional *district chair* for the WHSFA, coordinating Speech and Theatre contests, and mentoring coaches in one of the areas of highest rural poverty in Wisconsin. He stepped down as district chair about six years ago to pursue his master's degree in English, and he regularly writes for local newspapers, as well as cultivates celebrated young poets at Superior High School. Wolfe is pictured above with Kate Greenfield, Lyn Luce's daughter, and her family, along with WHSFA Executive Director Adam Jacobi.



Cole Pankratz, speech coach at Memorial High School in Eau Claire, was honored with the **Ethel Heise New Coach Award**. He started coaching in 2017-18, and has hosted and managed 3 speech contests, as well as serving as a part of the WHSFA State Festival tabulation and logistics teams. While Pankratz has inspired success in his students, he emphasizes sportsmanship and inclusivity. Nick Sirek praised Pankratz for his professionalism, organization, intelligence, and compassion. Pankratz credits his own high school speech coaches for influencing his mindset and philosophy of coaching in finding a place for every student, while encouraging participation at whatever level of engagement they are able to give. Pankratz will graduate from UW-Eau Claire with teacher licensure.

State Speech

At the WHSFA's 124th annual State Speech Festival at UW-Madison, April 12-13, 2019, approximately 4,200 students from 340 schools across the state participated. Nineteen schools earned *Excellence in Speech Awards*, recognizing their performance among the top 5% of schools at the festival. In addition to the top 5% of schools, we show an **honorable mention** of the 17 schools within the top 6-10%. Thirty four students earned their fourth consecutive gold medal at State; those are listed at whsfa.org/state-speech. Coaches can print their own school's results summary from SpeechWire.com.



◀ Students rehearse before performing

▼ In 2019, the festival began inviting exhibitors, including collegiate Speech programs.



Excellence in Speech Awards

School	Coach
Baldwin-Woodville	Angela Schmoker
Boscobel	Jean Salzgeber
Burlington	Robbie Twohig & Matt Nie
Darlington	Clarey Knellwolf
DeForest	Tom August
Ellsworth	Jennifer Kieren
Fennimore	Carrie Krogman
Hudson	Jessica Flanagan
Lakeside Lutheran	Stephen Lauber
Lincoln-Wis. Rapids	Cathy Tritz
Menomonie	Andrea Smith
New Berlin Eisenhower	Rebecca Donlin
Prescott	Tanya Sponholz
Regis	Judine Brey
Sauk Prairie	Ryan Mussack
St. Lawrence Seminary	Martin Vu
Waterford Union	Neil Hepworth
Waunakee	Walter Stenz
Wrightstown	David Winkler

Honorable Mentions (Top 6-10%)

School	Coach
Appleton West	Rebecca Herring & Dana Krause
Cameron	Sheri Hagen-Salm, Bambi Forcey & Sarah Pica
Cedar Grove-Belgium	Mary Beth Desens
Cuba City	Laura Wilberding & Becky Sitts
Fox Valley Lutheran, Appleton	Seth Hahnke & Kathy Kolell
Iowa-Grant	Jacqueline Rolli
Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS, Jackson	Barb Olsen
Lake Mills	Brenda Morris & Eric Angell
Lancaster	Sam Jonas
Lodi	Anne Lembcke
Mineral Point	Kristin Staver
Northwestern, Maple	Pat Luostari & Mike Goodlet
Platteville	Cheryl Schober
Richland Center	Christine Mulholland
Shoreland Lutheran	Sarah Selle
West De Pere	Natalie Buhl
Westosha Central	Jennifer Neumann

◀ Darlington celebrated their 25th consecutive Excellence in Speech Award.