



# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

PO Box 509

Ripon, WI 54971-0509

[www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org)

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

## Teacher Earns National Award for Contributions to Forensic Speech Education

RIPON, Wis. – **Nancy Herbison**, retired teacher and forensic coach at Tomahawk High School has been honored as the Wisconsin honoree for the *NFHS Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator Award*. She is only the fourth Wisconsinite to be honored, since the first honoree in 1990.

One nominee per state is accepted for this award, and the nominee must be endorsed by the state association office. Criteria for evaluation include: organization and continuance of an activity program, significant and ongoing contributions to the field, years of both curricular and co-curricular service, contributions to the profession both in and out of the state.

Nancy Herbison started her career with Tomahawk High School in August 1975 as a counselor and Speech (Forensics) assistant coach. She was promoted to head coach in 1981, took on middle school coaching in 1985, and became the official One-Act Theatre assistant director in 2001. She was elected district chair for the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA) in 1997, serving on its statewide Board of Control, who later elected her secretary. She has been instrumental in developing and improving the certification process for Speech judges, as well as revisions to the rules and evaluation forms for Speech contests.

Herbison was recognized with an Outstanding Directing Award at the 2001 State One-Act Festival, and her team won the Excellence in Speech Award in 2012. In 2013, she was the inaugural honoree for the Lyn Luce Leadership Award for her contributions to stewardship of the WHSFA. She also is a member of the National Speech & Debate Association's Committee on Rural Schools. Herbison continues to pursue her own professional development, attending the Broadway Theatre Teachers' Workshop in New York City in 2013 and 2015, and has audited classes on Coursera in historical fiction, modern poetry, constitutional law, Nordic mythology and Shakespeare in Community.

Herbison has connected thousands of students at Tomahawk High School with amazing scholarships and contests in speaking and communication, and also served in leadership with Wisconsin 4-H to develop its drama and speaking contests.

In short, Nancy Herbison is a renaissance scholar, a consummate educator, and a thoughtful leader, and quite deserving of this award.

### **About the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA)**

Since 1895, the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association has provided programming for middle and high school students in theatre, debate, and public speaking activities. Each year, our nonprofit organization serves about 10,000 Wisconsin students from 375-400 high schools, and 150-200 middle schools in the longest-running high school speech contests in the nation. Our aim is to empower students to enhance their skills in presentation through interscholastic assessment. For more information, visit [www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org).

- More -



# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

---

PO Box 509

Ripon, WI 54971-0509

[www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org)

## **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

Since 1920, The National Federation of State High School Associations has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and activities that help students succeed in their lives. We set directions for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS, from its offices in Indianapolis, Indiana, serves its 50 member state high school athletic/activity associations, plus the District of Columbia. The NFHS publishes playing rules in 16 sports for boys and girls competition and administers fine arts programs in speech, theater, debate and music. It provides a variety of program initiatives that reach the 18,500 high schools and over 11 million students involved in athletic and activity programs.

###

## **CONTACT**

Adam J. Jacobi, Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, [adam@whsfa.org](mailto:adam@whsfa.org), (920) 355-1895

## **ATTACHMENT**

Nancy Herbison portrait photograph (submitted by Nancy Herbison)



# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

PO Box 509

Ripon, WI 54971-0509

[www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org)

