



# Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association

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Wednesday, April 30, 2025

## Educators Awarded for Excellence and Leadership in Interscholastic Speech Contests

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Three Wisconsin high school educators were recognized for excellence by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association (WISDAA).

The first honoree was recognized with the *Lyn Luce Leadership Award*:

**Kam-Lin Roswall** has been a dedicated district chair and member of the WISDAA Board of Control for over ten years, shepherding the active La Crosse/Coulee region of the state in qualifying Speech and Theatre contests, serving as a trainer/instructor for Speech adjudicators, and helping at various State Contests. She has served as chair as well as treasurer of the WISDAA board, where one of her colleagues describes how she “always works in a spirit of empathy, reflection, and advocacy.” Even when her personal situation made it difficult to direct a one-act play in fall 2024, she pivoted and enrolled her students in Wisconsin’s Thespy, a program WISDAA administers for the Educational Theatre Association. This earned her students qualification to the International Thespian Festival held in Bloomington, Indiana in June. Roswall has been lauded by several peer educators as a mentor and cheerleader who relentlessly encourages others to ensure a vibrant community of interscholastic speech and theatre.

**Award namesake Lynda Luce** was a longtime Speech coach who taught at Waupaca High School, as well as at Fox Valley Technical College, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Oshkosh. She had been president of the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches’ Association (WFCA) and National Catholic Forensic League. She was honored with numerous awards, including the Herb Kohl Teaching Fellowship and the Wisconsin Communication Association’s (WCA) Andrew T. Weaver Award for excellence in teaching speech communication. Luce’s daughter, Kate Greenfield, a teacher with the Madison Metropolitan School District, always assists in presenting the awards in her mother’s memory.

The next honoree was recognized with the *Ethel Heise New Speech Coach Award*, which recognizes excellence of coaches within their first six years of coaching:

**Kim Neal Nofsinger** has coached cross country, track, one-act theatre, and speech at Brookwood High School in the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District. He started coaching speech in 2021, and has since more than doubled the number of students participating, engaging students in “personable, quick-minded, and creative” ways, notes his assistant coach Lorelee Arbanas. “He engages with students, often posing through-provoking questions to help them understand themselves as speakers. He always strives for quality and allows students to feel vulnerable, accepted, and values in his presence.”

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In addition to increasing participation numbers, Nofsinger's students have consistently earned top honors at the State Speech Festival, with several gold medals over the past several years.

**Award namesake Ethel Heise** was a longtime Speech coach from Neenah who also taught at Oshkosh Lourdes Academy where she was their first teacher to earn the esteemed Herb Kohl Teaching Fellowship in 1992, and in the same year, received the Wisconsin Communication Association's Andrew T. Weaver Award for excellence in teaching speech communication. Heise said that she started teaching because she enjoyed her days as a student: "When I was a senior in high school, I didn't want it to end. The next thing to do was go back and do it again." She was always supportive of new coaches, which is why WISDAA named this award in her honor.

### **About the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association**

Founded in 1895, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association (WISDAA) has provided programming for middle and students in theatre, debate, and public speaking (archaically called "forensics") activities. Each year, our nonprofit organization serves about 10,000 Wisconsin students from 375 high schools, and 150 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.wisdaa.org](http://www.wisdaa.org).

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### **CONTACT**

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