



Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

3815 Mormon Coulee Rd Ste 104
La Crosse, WI 54601-5088

(920) 710-1895
www.whsfa.org

Adam J. Jacobi
Executive Director

Friday, April 27, 2018

Educators Awarded for Their Leadership and Excellence in Forensic Speech Communication

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Three Wisconsin high school educators were recognized for excellence at the recent State Speech Festival in Madison. The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA) held its 123rd annual event on the campus of UW-Madison. Approximately 4,300 students from 341 high schools across the state participated April 20-21, 2018.

Judine Brey, teacher and forensic speech coach at Regis High School in Eau Claire, was honored with the *Lyn Luce Leadership Award*. Nine years ago Brey was elected by peers as Eau Claire regional district chair for WHSFA, coordinating theatre and speech contests, as well as providing mentorship support to her colleagues. She began her coaching career 13 years ago at Regis High School, building that school's forensic speech team into a thriving, respected program. As a mentor to educators at other schools, she emphasizes focus on student growth and achievement over accolades. As a leader in the WHSFA, she brings objectivity and professionalism to every interaction with colleagues and students. Cole Pankratz, head speech coach at Eau Claire Memorial High School and former student of the award's namesake, Lyn Luce, said of Brey, "she always puts others ahead of herself," and she "makes sure forensics is accessible to all."

Amy Kosarek, literacy coach and forensic speech coach at Waukesha West High School, also was honored with the *Lyn Luce Leadership Award*. Six years ago, Koszarek was elected southeastern Wisconsin regional district chair for WHSFA. She began her coaching career 12 years ago at Waterford Union High School, and moved a few years ago to Waukesha West. She has built respectable programs at both schools. A constant praise offered by peers is her exquisite sense of organization; that she makes herself accessible for questions; the time and energy she gives to all of WHSFA's activities, participating in the state-level speech, debate, and theatre festivals; and holding professional development sessions to help train her colleagues.

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, was on-hand with her family to present the awards.

Jennifer Jackowski, teacher and forensic speech coach at Union Grove High School, was honored with the *Ethel Heise New Coach Award*. Jackowski started coaching in 2013-14, with a smaller squad, and has increased participation since, to one of the largest squads in the state. She inspires excellence in her students, demonstrated by the accolades they have received, including one four-year gold medalist. Kieran says she coaches "to guide student success through speaking excellence, to guide student growth as individuals, and to guide students in becoming well-rounded members of our community." Her colleagues speak to her strong rapport with students, her strong sense of educational purpose underlying how she coaches, and her acumen in the administrative aspects in running a speech team and hosting contests.

Award namesake Ethel Heise was a longtime Speech coach who taught at Oshkosh Lourdes Academy where she was their first teacher to earn the esteemed Herb Kohl Teaching Fellowship, as well as earning the WCA's Andrew T. Weaver Award for excellence in teaching speech communication. Heise said she started teaching



Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

3815 Mormon Coulee Rd Ste 104
La Crosse, WI 54601-5088

(920) 710-1895
www.whsfa.org

Adam J. Jacobi
Executive Director

because she enjoyed her days as a student, and always championed the encouragement of new coaches, which is why the WHSFA named this award in her honor.

About the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Since 1895, the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA) 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 approximately 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.whsfa.org.

###

CONTACT

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