



Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association

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State Speech Contest Announces Students Earning Consecutive Awards

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Eleven Wisconsin high school seniors earned the highest individual recognition – for each year they participated in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association **State Speech Festival**. This year, more than 2,800 students from 306 high schools participated.

Adjudicators rate each student or performing group. An elite number of students earn the contest’s top score and honor of *Critic’s Choice* – a **gold medal** – multiple times during high school career. This year’s students earned the top score at the 2021 and 2022 State Speech Festivals, as well as advanced from the first qualifying contest during the 2020 season before it was interrupted. Those honorees are (sorted by school, alphabetically):

Dru Beebe	Baldwin-Woodville High School
Elissa Lonzo	Bay Port High School
Emmalee Empey	Colby High School
Alana Nelson	Ithaca High School
Sabrina Hebert	Muskego High School
Ella Cain	Northwestern High School
Ella Johnson	Prescott High School
Brooke Strege	Southern Door High School
Ariana Gronholm	Union Grove High School
Jordan James	Waukesha North High School
Tanis Gee	Wrightstown High School

“Students in our academic sport practice long hours to hone their skills and meet the expectations upon which they will be evaluated,” said WISDAA Executive Director Adam Jacobi. “These young people have consistently earned our highest score and gold medal, and have done so during one of the most challenging times in generations. We honor these resilient young people as they prepare for their future beyond high school.”

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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.

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