



# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

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Executive Director

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## State Speech Contest Announces Students Earning Fourth Consecutive Awards

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Twenty eight Wisconsin high school seniors earned the highest individual recognition – for each of four years – at the recent State Speech Festival in Madison. The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association held its 123rd annual event on the campus of UW-Madison. This past weekend, approximately 4,300 students from 341 high schools across the state participated.

Judges 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 – all four years of their high school career. This year, just 28 students, or about two-thirds of one percent, earned this distinguished honor (sorted by school, alphabetically):

Taylor Vesperman (Belleville High School)  
Brody Milz (Black Hawk High School, South Wayne)  
Jason Treuthardt (Black Hawk High School, South Wayne)  
Olivia Grassel (Boscobel High School)  
Grace Boyle (Burlington High School)  
Collin Prill (Chippewa Falls High School)  
Sydney Moore (Columbus High School)  
Gabrielle Steiner (Darlington High School)  
Jackson Hemming (Darlington High School)  
Tiffany Polzin (Denmark High School)  
Olivia Sharp (Ithaca High School, Richland Center)  
Morgan Cerny (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School)  
Kyla Vaughan (Lancaster High School)  
Baylee Nelis (Luxemburg-Casco High School)  
Sophie Voss (Menomonie High School)  
Erin Swope (Milton High School)  
Paolo Lucas (Monroe High School)  
Sarah Stadler (New Holstein High School)  
Jenna Boeck (Omro High School )  
Bella Gonzales (Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee)  
Celena Wirth (Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee)  
Emily Buss (Prescott High School)  
Sterling Kleist (Richland Center High School)  
Abby Mathison (Thorp High School)  
Nadia Storms (Turner High School)  
Adam Jenkinson (Turtle Lake High School)  
Jonah Kahl (Turtle Lake High School)  
Lexi Anunson (Waunakee 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 WHSFA Executive Director Adam Jacobi. “These 28 young people have consistently earned our highest score and gold medal, all four years of high school.”

**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 about 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](http://www.whsfa.org).

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