



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

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

State Speech Contest Announces Students Earning Consecutive Awards

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Twenty-three Wisconsin high school seniors earned the highest individual recognition – for each year they participated in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association **State Speech Festival**. While the event was cancelled in 2020, typically each year more than 4,200 students from nearly 350 high schools across the state participate.

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 – multiple times during high school career. This year, just 23 students who began the season later discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic had earned this distinguished honor the three years prior (sorted by school, alphabetically):

Claire Brindley, Barneveld HS
Mikenzie Leahy, Barneveld HS
Whitney Waterbury, Barneveld HS
Caleb Dunst, Bonduel HS
Marty Williams, Darlington HS
Sophya Zangri, Drummond HS
Allie Jennings, Ellsworth HS
Cormac Duff, Fennimore HS
Amanda Eaton, Janesville Parker HS
Holland Bohan, Kickapoo HS
Aaron Murphy, Lancaster HS
Erin Walker, Lancaster HS

Isaiah Place, Lancaster HS
Autumn Green, Milwaukee HS of the Arts
Bailey Larsen, New Berlin Eisenhower HS
Margaret Howard, Northwood HS
Jared Peters, Pittsville HS
Halli Martin, Plum City HS
Mikenzie Ingli, Plum City HS
Abi Schmeiser, Waunakee HS
Ashlyn Anderson, Waunakee HS
Megan Maxfield, Waunakee HS
Emily Wesoloski, West De Pere HS

“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 23 young people have consistently earned our highest score and gold medal, and even though they didn't have an opportunity to participate in a fourth State Festival this April, we honor these resilient young people as they prepare for their future beyond 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 370 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