



# Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association

1501 Saint Andrew St, Ste 203  
La Crosse, WI 54603

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## 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*:

**Ann Kedrowski** has been coaching Speech for 35 years, contest one-act plays over 25 years, and has been a lead teacher, mentor, and Mosinee Teacher of the Year. She also has coached volleyball, led scouting, led 4-H and spiritual groups among her many contributions to her school and greater community. Her deep care and commitment to students and colleagues alike defines what makes her such an effective servant-leader. She does not seek the spotlight. Instead, she works tirelessly to uplift others. Her colleague educators describe her as “well-rounded, highly intelligent, and dedicated” as well as “exuberant, good listener, and inspiring.”

**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:

**Loralee Arbanas** began coaching Speech for a student who required special assistance and fell in love with the activity, where she immersed herself in recruiting more students and challenging them to seek challenging material to explore non-traditional and complex themes. She also has incorporated facets of speech communication across curriculum in the absence of a distinct speech course at Brookwood High School. Students inspired by her methods have flourished both in classrooms and in interscholastic contests, alike. Plus, she gives of her time, talents, and attention to detail and organization by assisting with running local, qualifying Speech contests.

**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

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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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