El Camino College student Lillian Cavalieri placed fourth among the nation's elite community college forensics students at the Phi Rho Pi Nationals in Chicago. The first-year competitor also won a gold medal in Lincoln-Douglas debate, a gold in impromptu, a silver in extemporaneous, and a bronze in team debate.

"Lillian has been pure pleasure to coach this year," said El Camino College forensics coach Diana Crossman. “She works very hard and takes coaching extremely well. When you get to be fourth in the nation your first year competing, it's safe to say there is no stopping you the rest of your life. She will excel at whatever she chooses.”

Cavalieri is majoring in political science and plans to transfer to USC, UCLA, or UC Berkeley, followed by law school. She said that being a part of the debate program at El Camino College has helped pushed her toward achieving her best.

“The coaches will not give up on you, and they work hard to provide incentives to help us push further and focus harder on both debate and academic studies,” she added.

The nationally ranked powerhouse forensics team took a few other awards at the Phi Rho Pi Nationals as well, including a silver in team debate.

The announcement of these outstanding accomplishments follows the team’s repeat national championship at the National Parliamentary Debate Association conference, its third championship victory in four years.

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