



N E W S

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

March 29, 2011

El Camino College Forensics Team Ranked No. 1 in Country, Finishes State Championship with Best Scores in Recent History

The El Camino College forensics team recently returned from the state championships in Woodland Hills with its best performance in more than 25 years. The team ended the season as the No. 1 community college in the nation, and No. 2 among the nation's universities, as ranked by the National Parliamentary Debate Association, which includes about 300 colleges and universities.

The team is now looking forward to the national championships in Greenwich, Connecticut on April 9.

Team member Richard Ewell was named top speaker in the state overall, the highest honor of the competition. He also won top speaker in all individual events, earning the Tabor Collins Award. Additional awards for Ewell include: gold in team debate, gold in Lincoln-Douglas debate, silver in impromptu, and silver in extemporaneous.

Sydney Awakuni is another team member who won high honors, including the Jim Wyman award for top speaker in debate, silver in team debate, silver in Lincoln-Douglas debate, silver in extemporaneous, and gold in impromptu, which earned the title of best impromptu speaker in the state.

Ewell, Awakuni, and other members of the ECC team are being heavily recruited by four-year universities.

Additional award winners at the state championships include:

- Mark Faaita: gold in team debate, gold in Lincoln-Douglass debate, silver in extemporaneous, and bronze in impromptu
- Whitney Gamble: gold in oral interpretation (best in state)
- Tony Liu: silver in team debate, silver in Lincoln-Douglas debate
- Albro Lundy: gold in impromptu, bronze in team debate and extemporaneous
- Aubrey Manahan: bronze in persuasive
- Morgan McNally: gold in impromptu, bronze in extemporaneous
- Shannon Meredith: gold in team debate, bronze in Lincoln-Douglas debate
- James Nee: silver in team debate, gold in extemporaneous
- Ben Porter: bronze in team debate
- David "Bear" Saulet: gold in team debate, silver in Lincoln-Douglas debate
- Wendy Steiner: silver in team debate, bronze in impromptu, and bronze in speech to entertain

The El Camino College forensics team is coached by Francesca Bishop, Diana Crossman, and Mark Crossman.

###