

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recipients of the Keith West Memorial Fund School Grant Announced for the 23-24 Speech and Debate Season

The Keith West Memorial Fund school grants are given annually by the National Speech & Debate Association to teams who show strong potential but lack financial resources.

December 11, 2023 – The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is proud to announce the Keith West Memorial Fund school grant recipients for the 2023-2024 school year.

From over 175 applications, these teams were chosen based on their financial needs, team diversity, proactive efforts in team development, initiative, and demonstrated capacity to make a meaningful impact in their schools and communities.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 school grant recipients:

\$5,000 Grant

Oliver Wendell Holmes HS, Texas

- Coach: Robert Root

\$2,500 Grant

Fort Walton Beach HS, Florida

- Coach: Katrina Brownsberger

Desert Pines HS, Nevada

- Coach: Nicole Whaley

\$1,000 Grant

Dublin Jerome HS, Ohio

- Coach: Robert Duncan

Rancho HS, Nevada

- Coach: Laurents Banuelos-Benitez

Woodrow Wilson HS, California

- Coach: Ricardo Payan

Matilda Torres HS, California

- Coach: Mikendra McCoy
Thomas Edison HS, Minnesota
- Coach: Zachary Stachowski

The Keith West Memorial Fund was established in 2021 by Keith West's family and friends in order to honor his life and legacy. Keith West lived with compassion and care as cornerstone characteristics of his personality. Upon graduation from high school as a three time Iowa state champion and a finalist at the 2000 NSDA National Tournament in Congressional Debate, Keith went to college to pursue his future as an educator, coach, and scholar. Keith dedicated his life to coaching and teaching youth in the ways of argumentation and debate.

Learn more about the Keith West Memorial Fund and how these teams were selected at www.speechanddebate.org/keith-west-memorial-fund.

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About the National Speech & Debate Association

The National Speech & Debate Association is the largest interscholastic speech and debate organization serving middle school, high school, and collegiate students in the United States. The Association provides competitive speech and debate activities, high-quality resources, comprehensive training, scholarship opportunities, and advanced recognition to more than 140,000 students and coaches every year. For almost 100 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has empowered nearly 2 million members to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals, and honorable leaders in our society. For more information, visit www.speechanddebate.org.