

PRESS RELEASE

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1217, Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-9261

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2014

SDHSAA MEDIA CONTACT:

James Weaver, Assistant Executive Director (224-9261)

High School Speakers Prepare for 2014 State Debate and Individual Events Tournament in Huron

South Dakota's top high school speech and debate competitors are busy preparing for the season concluding SDHSAA Annual State Debate & Individual Events Tournament. The 2014 State Debate & Individual Events Tournament will be held at Huron High School on Friday & Saturday March 7-8. Schools, based on their enrollment, are divided into Class "AA" and Class "A" for state tournament competition.

The State Debate & Individual Events Tournament will find students competing for state championships in some of South Dakota's oldest statewide high school competitions. The 2014 State Tournament will crown the 100th Annual State Champions in Policy Debate. Extemporaneous Speaking events have been held for 88 years. Original Oratory is marking its 80th year of State Championship competition. Although having a long history in the realm of political debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate is one of the more recent high school state championship speech activity events and will crown its 34th group of state champions. The newest speech activity, Public Forum Debate, will mark its 12th year as a State Tournament event.

The 2013 defending Class "AA" Sweepstakes Team is Aberdeen Central High School and the 2013 Class "A" Sweepstakes champion team was Milbank High School.

No admission is charged for any of the competition and the public is invited to observe any of the competition during the State Debate & Individual Events Tournament. The Public Forum Debate format, which is intended for the man-on-the-street audience, will debate the issue of: "***The Supreme Court rightly decided that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act violated the Constitution***". Each Public Forum debate will provide a short audience oriented competition with each debate lasting approximately 35 minutes. Lincoln-Douglas competitors will be debating the issue: "***Developing countries should prioritize environmental protection over resource extraction when the two are in conflict***". Nationwide, policy debaters have been debating the topic: "***The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela***".

A copy of the State Debate and Individual Events Tournament schedule is available on the SDHSAA website <http://www.sdhsaa.com/FineArts/Speech/DebateIndividualEvents/StateTournamentSchedule.aspx>. The results of the Tournament will be posted on the SDHSAA website, after the conclusion of competition on Saturday, March 8. (Go to Fine Arts, Speech, Debate and click on the SDPB logo.)