Debate and Speech Team achieves 2nd at largest tourney in the Northwest

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Utah State University’s Speech and Debate Team achieved a significant victory in the season’s largest such competition in the Northwest region, earning an overall placement of second.

In November, the Speech and Debate Team competed in the Division II team sweepstakes at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. It was the second conference-designated tournament of the season.

Coach Chantelle Gossner said this 2019-2020 team, with only 10 competitors, is among the smallest teams USU has fielded in recent years.

Voice also achieved 4th place in open division communication analysis and was awarded for being the top junior division student in an open division event.

“The students have worked hard to memorize their speeches and are now really starting to gel with their content, which allows them to focus on fine-tuning and evoking emotion,” said Gossner. Because team members work on a single presentation throughout the year, she said, “this is the time of year when their performances become incredibly compelling.”

The Aggies also made their mark in the style of debate established by the International Public Debate Association. Obulasetty received 8th place in novice speaker awards, which are given for quality of presentation and content. In junior division speaker awards, senior Communication Studies major Rachael Teare earned 2nd place, senior Journalism student Ammon Teare received 3rd, Voigt placed 5th, and Saunders received 9th.

Sanders competed all the way through finals in the single-elimination round, finishing the tournament as the 2nd-place debater in novice division.
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'Ve are competing with teams that, in most cases, are double our size or more. For such a small team to achieve this high mark demonstrates that each student is truly a star.'

Coach Chantelle Gossner

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