

USU Speech and Debate Team wraps up season with 4th place at nationals

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USU Speech and Debate coach Tom Worthen (back row, third from right) said last week's national tournament, in which the team took fourth overall, shows "that USU still ranks at the top."

Utah State University Speech and Debate earned fourth place among 38 competing college and universities at its national tournament March 24-25.

The International Public Debate Association tournament was held in Spokane, Wash.

Seven students in the nine-member USU team made it into the top 32 students at the tournament in their respective divisions, said Coach Tom Worthen.

Erika Mueller, who took third place, was recognized as the top speaker. Brock Redman and Carsyn Endres tied for fifth place. Endres also received the sixth-place speaker award and Kaleb Webb the ninth.

Other finishers were Naomi Ward in fourth place, Zoe Hall fifth place and Sam Hendricks sixth place. In the open division, Tanner Petersen placed fifth.

Although the USU Speech and Debate team usually competes in regional tournaments, said Worthen, "it is great to know that USU still ranks at the top when we compete at the national level."