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Student Service to the High School Forensics Community: Insights Gained from Hosting the Annual Singletary Speech and Debate Tournament

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Student Service to the High School Forensics Community



Insights gained from hosting the annual Singletary Speech and Debate Tournament

Team History

The Linfield College Forensics team is the Oregon Alpha Chapter for the Pi Kappa Delta National Forensics Honor Society. Pi Kappa Delta promotes “the art of persuasion, beautiful and just” by providing resources to host tournaments, scholarships, conferences, and a biannual national tournament. Linfield’s chapter was granted charter on March 1st, 1924.

Tournament History

The Singletary high school tournament is one of two tournaments the college hosts each year. This tournament has provided an opportunity for high school students to visit the Linfield College campus since 1933. It is the oldest high school tournament sponsored by a college or university on the West Coast and one of the oldest in the country. The tournament is named for Craig and Nancy Singletary, who coached at Linfield and assisted in running Linfield tournaments for many years. Two current members of the Linfield Forensics Team competed at the Singletary tournament during their high school forensics career.

Opportunity for Prospective Students

The opportunity for high school students to attend a tournament hosted by a college is invaluable for numerous reasons:

- ✧ College tournaments expose students to college campuses, allowing them to learn more about the environment and resources they have the opportunity to take advantage of.
- ✧ Linfield’s Singletary tournament draws a larger pool of competitors than local tournaments, increasing the caliber of the competition.
- ✧ College tournaments foster opportunities for mentorship and engagement between high school and college students.
- ✧ The Singletary tournament offers scholarships to top speakers, making college more accessible for high achieving students.
- ✧ The Singletary tournament has high standards, giving better topics for debate, facilitating more diverse discussions, and running on time.

Rewards for Linfield Students

The Singletary tournament offers an opportunity for growth for Linfield students, who have gained a variety of life skills:

- ✧ Completing adjudication to provide constructive feedback to competitors.
- ✧ Facilitating award ceremonies to recognize outstanding talent.
- ✧ Interacting with coaches and parents to provide guidance in adjudication and student feedback process.
- ✧ Engaging in outreach to foster mentorships between college and high school students.
- ✧ Promoting opportunities in college forensics.
- ✧ Utilizing the skills and talents of diverse individuals to maintain competition brackets, select finalists, and coordinate judges for each round.
- ✧ Communicating behavioral expectations to high school competitors.
- ✧ Upholding a high standard of intellectual curiosity and civic engagement.
- ✧ Researching current and relevant, controversial issues for speech topics.
- ✧ Coordinating attendance of qualified and informed judges.