**USA Debate Team Advances to Top 8 at Prague Debate Spring Tournament**

**RIPON, Wis. (March 25, 2014)** *–* The USA Debate team advanced to the Top 8 at the Prague Debate Spring Tournament in Prague, Czech Republic. The bustling tournament hosted 135 debaters from 45 schools and 11 nations including top competitors from Canada, China, and Germany.

As newcomers to the World Schools Debate format of three-on-three debate, Seniors Shania Hunt (Texas), Lily Nellans (Iowa), and junior Tiana Menon (Colorado) met the challenge of the unfamiliar style head on. The team started off with an impressive 5-1 preliminary round record, breaking into the top 8 of the tournament.

Hunt, Nellans, and Menon gave a strong showing in quarters, narrowly missing the next break and losing to tournament champion, Vancouver B, on a 2-1 decision.

Lily Nellans received 15th in speaker awards.

**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 130,000 students and coaches every year. For nearly 90 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has empowered more than 1.4 million members to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals, and honorable leaders in our society. Visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for more information.

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