

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to nominate Dr. Scott Voss for the NSDA Assistant Coach of the Year Award. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Scott Voss since he was a student in this activity on my team at Mankato Loyola H.S., where he earned his first “NFL” points and first qualified for Nationals in Humorous Interpretation in 1985 as a sophomore, returned twice, and advanced to elimination rounds. His dedication as a student has certainly continued as a coach. During college, Scott became my assistant coach and student taught under me. He was then hired as a teacher and continued as an assistant speech coach at AVHS where he now has taught for 28 years. When needed, he has also coached debate (LD and PF) throughout his career, both as an assistant coach and administrator to insure we had a strong and viable program. His assistant coaching dates back to qualifying a PF team to NSDA Nationals during its inaugural year. He has been committed to this activity throughout his life, and he continues to be integral to the current AVHS Speech and Debate program. Although he is an “assistant coach,” he is highly involved in both coaching many students in many events and facilitating/leading many program-oriented duties. There is no task that’s too large or small for him to undertake, whether it be hiring judges, working with the Booster Club, running tech for our large annual tournaments, or leading pep talks. He believes in the importance of TEAM and EXCELLENCE. His coaching has directly contributed to AVHS being repeatedly recognized as a Team of Excellence by both the NCFL and NSDA.

Since Scott began coaching in ’89-90, he has had great success. Scott has earned the distinction of being a 2-Diamond Coach. He has coached 15 MSHSL State Champions in both Public Address and Interpretation. At NCFL Nationals, he has coached 7 National Finalists, of which two were Champions. At NSDA Nationals, he has coached 9 finalists, of which two were Champions (Oratory and Prose). It is notable that in Oratory alone, he has had six NSDA National finalists in the past six years. This year would be a particularly special year to recognize Scott because he coached Halima Badri, 2018’s National Oratory Champion back to the final round in 2019, where she placed 3rd. Additionally, as an assistant coach, Scott has contributed to AVHS twice winning the Bruno E. Jacob Award, which was just presented to AVHS for the second time in 2019. All of these accomplishments typify his stellar career.

Most recently, in the fall of 2019, Scott was awarded the Communication and Theatre Association of Minnesota’s Outstanding Individual in Communication and Theater Award. This is not only emblematic of his coaching accomplishments, but who also he is as an educator and person. Scott cares deeply about every student—including those who may never make a final round at an invitational, let alone win an award at State or Nationals. In fact, I would say it’s those students who have a very special place in his heart, because as an “educator and coach” Scott believes that ALL students are better because of their training and experience in Speech and Debate. Scott also cares deeply about equity and inclusion, and advocates vigorously for opportunities for his students. Scott, as a reading specialist, helps those who struggle to read, to love the literature on the page. Because of his exceptional ability to teach his students, who have a wide range of talents and abilities, in and outside of the classroom, Scott was named AVHS Teacher of the Year in 2005. He has continued that standard of excellence throughout his career. Scott is also well respected by the community for his student-centered approach, strong ethical code, and very personable nature. For all of these reasons, Dr. Scott Voss is an excellent candidate for NSDA’s Assistant Coach of the Year Award. I hope you will strongly consider him this special recognition.

Sincerely,
Pam Cady Wycoff
AVHS Director Emeritus
NSDA President