

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **David Begnaud of *CBS Mornings* to Emcee 2024 National Speech & Debate Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa**

[March 25, 2024] —The National Speech & Debate Association is excited to announce David Begnaud, the Emmy Award winning Lead National Correspondent for *CBS Mornings*, as emcee for the 2024 National Speech & Debate Tournament.

David Begnaud has a long-standing connection with speech and debate. During high school, David was an active member of his school's speech and debate team, was coached by three-diamond coach and Hall of Fame member Josette Surratt, and credits his speech and debate experience in shaping his career in journalism.

David first made a name for himself covering some of the most significant news events of our time. Where there was a crisis, David was there to report. Hurricanes. Volcanoes. Mass shootings. He has traveled the country covering it all for CBS News. His coverage of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico won him the prestigious George Polk award for public service, as well as international acclaim for consistently reporting on the suffering that U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico were enduring in the aftermath of the storm.

In the years since Maria, David's passion has evolved into telling stories that unite us. He specializes in telling stories that highlight human struggle and triumph which help us see the best of ourselves in the lives of other people. His compassionate style distinguishes his storytelling, and his commitment to factual, empathetic reporting make him an ideal figure to emcee this year's awards ceremony.

When asked to emcee the National Tournament, David expressed, "*As Ms. Surratt always hammered into me—give back! That's why this invitation spoke to my soul. It takes me back to a place that, for me, as a high school student, was a dream, the national finals tournament. To be back as emcee is a full circle moment and a chance to celebrate all of you.*"

The National Speech & Debate Tournament is the largest academic competition in the world, drawing thousands of students from across the country to compete in various speech and debate events. This year's tournament in Des Moines is the kick-off to the NSDA's Centennial

Celebration and promises to be an exciting showcase of the incredible talent within the speech and debate community.

For more information about the 2024 National Speech & Debate Tournament, and to stay updated on the latest news, please visit our website: [www.speechanddebate.org/nationals](http://www.speechanddebate.org/nationals).

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### **About the National Speech & Debate Association**

The National Speech & Debate Association is the authority on public speaking and debate in the United States. The Association builds the infrastructure for speech and debate competitions around the world by providing topics, educational resources, and training for students and coaches. For nearly 100 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has built a platform for youth voices that culminates in the National Tournament, the largest academic competition in the world. For more information, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).