November 2019

Dear coach,

As a speech and debate educator, you are helping shape how students prepare for college, career, and life. I’m writing because over 3,000 schools around the country are utilizing the support, inspiration, and connections offered by the National Speech & Debate Association. Fewer than half of those schools attend the National Speech & Debate Tournament every year but maintain a membership.

Here are just a few of the ways we help you and your school’s class or team grow and succeed.

**We are helping classes and teams.** We have lesson plans, event-specific intro to coaching courses, national final round videos, research guides, webinars, textbooks, and more to help you and your students find success, whether your program is brand new or not!

**We are an incredible honor society.** Students have the ability to earn distinction and gain recognition in our honor society through competition, community service, public speaking, and leadership. Each year, we share your successes in the honor society directly with your school administration. College admissions representatives recognize our honor society as an impressive achievement on student applications.

**We are assisting brilliant educators.** We offer accreditation as a speech and debate coach or teacher as well as professional development opportunities and credit through our learning management system. We also create ways for educators to connect via an online forum, conferences, participation on local and national committees, webinars, and more.

**We are communicators.** Our weekly coach newsletters keep members informed on all things speech and debate. Members also receive a complimentary subscription to our quarterly magazine, *Rostrum*, offered here for your perusal.

**We are funding new programs.** Thanks to a generous three-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the NSDA can provide financial support to programs wishing to hold a Big Questions event or tournament. We also offer first-year discounts to programs which inquire.

**We are the largest academic competition in the world.** Membership allows your students to participate in district qualifying tournaments, if desired, for an opportunity to compete at the 2020 National Speech & Debate Tournament in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

*Read more on page 2*
We are speech and debate, and we are proud! When you join the National Speech & Debate Association as a member, you join more than 1.5 million students, alumni, coaches, teachers, and supporters and more than 3,000 schools. Our dedication to equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service means we celebrate and promote all forms of speech and debate participation, at all types of schools, starting by recognizing what you do locally.

**BECOME AN NSDA MEMBER TODAY!**
www.speechanddebate.org/signup

Sign your team up for membership today by visiting www.speechanddebate.org/signup —and if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us at (920) 748-6206 or info@speechanddebate.org.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Wunn
NSDA Executive Director

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**CELEBRATE WITH US!**

One of the best parts about belonging to the national speech and debate community is the opportunity to celebrate on a large scale what you and your colleagues do every day.

**WE CELEBRATE...**

**...DIVERSITY.** Join us for materials and resources to celebrate the intersection of speech and debate with Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Pride Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, and more!

**...COMMITMENT.** Celebrate National Speech and Debate Education Day, recognized by the United States Senate, with your team using our free resources!

**...ACHIEVEMENT.** Get ready to receive regular updates on your team’s advancement in the Honor Society, your accumulated points as a coach, and more.