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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE SENIOR STATE SPEECH
TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

The Kentucky High School Speech League held its 102nd annual State Speech tournament for high schools March 10 and 11 on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. Schools from Paintsville to Paducah competed at the annual State Senior Speech Championship after advancing from the seven Regional tournaments held around the state in February.

The Senior State Speech Tournament (grades 9-12) began Friday, March 10, with three preliminary rounds for all competitors. After receiving three scores, the top twelve scoring entries in nine speech events plus the top twenty-four participants in the five largest speech events (Broadcasting, Impromptu Speaking, Improvisational Duo, Poetry, and Prose) were advanced into awards rounds. After more judging in the Quarterfinals (top 24) and Semifinals (top 12), six students in each of the fourteen events were announced as State Finalists and competed for panels of five judges Saturday afternoon. Awards were handed out in a ceremony in Northern Kentucky University's Vortruba Student Union Ballroom Saturday evening.

Rowan County Senior High School won the Senior State Speech title for the fourth straight year with second place going to Knott County Central High School and Lexington's Paul Laurence Dunbar in third. These three schools were followed by Murray, duPont Manual, Beechwood, Bardstown, Calloway County, South Oldham, and Boone County completing the top ten squads. Kentucky Country Day School won the Sustained Excellence Award given to teams for outstanding performances over time; their team total for this honor will reset to zero, and they will begin earning points toward this trophy again next year. Additionally, Kentucky Country Day, Daviess County, Greenwood, Letcher County Central, and Highlands were honored as Schools of Distinction for outstanding performances in the state meet.

Calloway County High School's Jennifer Dunnaway was voted Coach of the Year by the coach collective, and Murray High School's Gabriel Crass received the Blyton Book Award, an annual honor given to an outstanding senior in honor of Gifford Blyton, longtime KHSSL Executive Director and debate coach at the University of Kentucky.

A full list of award winners in each of the fourteen categories follows this release. For any questions or to connect with local coaches and schools, please contact KHSSL Executive Director Steve Meadows at 859/927-1100 or khssl@khssl.org. You can also visit our website at www.khssl.org for more information about the League.

The speech and debate season in Kentucky runs from October to January with 14 Regional Speech Tournaments held in February around the Commonwealth to qualify for State followed by State Junior Speech (grades 4-8), Senior Speech (grades 9-12), and Debate (grades 4-12) tournaments. Students competed online in twenty speech, debate, and drama categories from Storytelling to Congressional Debate to Oratory.

KHSSL offers membership to all schools -- public, private, and homeschools -- serving students in grades 4-12 in Kentucky. With member schools from Murray to Morehead, Kentucky's oldest student activity trains students how to conduct themselves in public settings, how to successfully communicate ideas, how to empathize with others via character analysis, how to read critically and how to research properly with contests that encourage excellence.