

# Mt. SAC Forensics Wins 2019 National Championship



The Mt. SAC Forensics team recently won the 2019 Phi Rho Pi Speech and Debate Community College National Championship Title for the 9th time in school history. The championship, held April 8-13, in Reno, Nevada, featured 56 community colleges and almost 500 students from around the country. Mt. SAC last won the National Championship in 2014. The team of fourteen Mt. SAC students took home an overall Gold Medal scoring 227.5 points finishing ahead of perennial rivals Southeastern Illinois (176 points), El Camino College (150 points), and Orange Coast College (145 points). Overall, Mt. SAC took home 36 total awards including 7 National Titles in 6 different event categories. Mt. SAC has finished in the top three at the National Championship tournament each year for the past decade.

Tournament standouts included second-year team members **Mikayla Holzinger**, **Janay Bombino**, and **Edwin Ramirez** and first-year team member **Eisa Razzak** who each won four medals at the tournament. Mikayla took home gold medals in Prose interpretation and Duo interpretation, and two silvers in Dramatic interpretation and Readers Theater. Janay took home a gold medal in Duo interpretation, silver medals in Extemporaneous speaking and Readers Theater, and a bronze in Informative speaking. Both were recognized as 3rd and 4th best speaker in the nation, respectively. Edwin Ramirez, competing at his second and last Phi Rho Pi tournament shared, "Being a part of the nationals team was the best experience I have had in my life thus far. It is hard to describe how rewarding this experience really is and how great it feels to have our hard work pay off." Eisa Razzak shared, "This experience made me feel a part of something much bigger than myself. It felt incredible knowing I was part of the great legacy of Mt. SAC Forensics." Coach **Jasmine McLeod** shared, "The students have been working so hard



this year and to see their commitment and dedication pay off was really rewarding. Our team earned this national championship together in the best way possible.” The team also excelled in debate events and readers theater. **Mohamad Almouazzen** and Eisa Razzak took home a bronze medal in parliamentary debate as a pair and also received the Bossard-Twohy Award, a peer nominated award for debate excellence and the first in Mt. SAC history! In Readers Theater, Mt. SAC’s show titled “Know Your Place” won an overall silver medal as well as the peer-nominated Huffer-Goldman award for Reader’s Theater excellence. Mikayla Holzinger, Janay Bombino, and **Grace Kim** performed in the show which was about the FOSTA and SESTA bills. “Know Your Place ” will compete again at the upcoming American Readers Theater Championship to be held at Mt. SAC Sunday, May 5th, 2019.

Other awards include Edwin Ramirez winning a silver in Prose interpretation and three bronze medals in Informative speaking, Persuasive speaking, and Speech to Entertain. Eisa Razzak also received two silvers in Persuasive speaking and IPDA debate, alongside a bronze medal in Extemporaneous speaking. Mohamad Almouazzen took home a gold medal in Extemporaneous speaking and a bronze in Impromptu speaking. **Osirus Polachart** received a gold in Duo interpretation, a silver in Speech to Entertain, and a bronze in Program Oral interpretation. **Ty Wright** received two gold medals in Poetry interpretation and Duo interpretation, as well as a silver medal in Program Oral interpretation. **Caitlyn Carr** won two awards including silver medals in Impromptu speaking and Extemporaneous speaking. Grace Kim additionally took home a gold medal in Speech to Entertain next to a silver in Readers Theater.

Rounding out the awards were **Shanae Wong** (gold, Informative speaking), **Valeria Cervantes** (bronze, Persuasive speaking), and **Cindy Gutierrez** (silver, IPDA debate). Also representing Mt. SAC at the tournament were **Lizeth Chimal** and **Gregory Nunez**.

The team is directed by Communication Professors **Roger Willis**, Jasmine McLeod, and **Thuy Pham**.

Overall Sweepstakes: Gold (1st Place)  
Individual Event Sweepstakes: Gold (1st Place)  
Debate Sweepstakes: Bronze (5th Place)  
Bovero Top Speaker Awards: Mikayla Holzinger, 3rd; Janay Bombino, 4<sup>th</sup>

GOLD - Mikayla Holzinger, Prose Interp  
GOLD - Ty Wright, Poetry Interp  
GOLD - Shanae Wong, Informative Speaking

GOLD - Mohamad Almouazzen, Extemp Speaking  
 GOLD - Osirus Polachart/Ty Wright, Duo Interp  
 GOLD - Mikayla Holzinger/Janay Bombino, Duo Interp  
 GOLD - Grace Kim, Speech to Entertain  
 SILVER - Mikayla Holzinger/Grace Kim/Janay Bombino, Readers Theater  
 SILVER - Cindy Gutierrez, IPDA Debate  
 SILVER - Eisa Razzak, IPDA Debate  
 SILVER - Caitlyn Carr, Extemp Speaking  
 SILVER - Janay Bombino, Extemp Speaking  
 SILVER - Caitlyn Carr, Impromptu Speaking  
 SILVER - Edwin Ramirez, Prose Interp  
 SILVER - Ty Wright, Program Oral Interp  
 SILVER - Mikayla Holzinger, Dramatic Interp  
 SILVER - Osirus Polachart, Speech to Entertain  
 SILVER - Eisa Razzak, Persuasive speaking  
 BRONZE - Mohamad Almouazzen/Eisa Razzak, NPDA Parliamentary Debate  
 BRONZE - Eisa Razzak, Extemp Speaking  
 BRONZE - Mohamad Almouazzen, Impromptu Speaking  
 BRONZE - Osirus Polachart, Program Oral Interp  
 BRONZE - Edwin Ramirez, Speech to Entertain  
 BRONZE - Edwin Ramirez, Informative Speaking  
 BRONZE - Janay Bombino, Informative Speaking  
 BRONZE - Valeria Cervantes, Informative Speaking  
 BRONZE - Edwin Ramirez, Informative Speaking  
 Bossard-Twohy Award - Mohamad Almouazzen/Eisa Razzak, NPDA Parliamentary  
 Debate  
 Huffer-Goldman - Mikayla Holzinger/Grace Kim/Janay Bombino, Readers Theater  
 Bovero Top Speaker - Janay Bombino, 4th; Mikayla Holzinger, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thuy Vi Pham, Professor of Communication