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Repeat Performance is Goal of Model UN Team

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University’s model United Nations (U.N.) team will return to the National Model U.N. Conference in New York City April 9-13, hoping to earn the highest honor of “Outstanding Delegation” for the third consecutive year. More than 2,500 students from around the world compete in New York.

The Cedarville University team will tour the United Nations on Thursday.

In recent years Cedarville’s model U.N. team has proven to be a leader in regional and national competitions. Its members earned all eight major individual awards at the annual Dayton Model United Nations Conference (DAYMUNC) in 2015. Earlier this year, the team claimed seven awards.

The team was awarded Outstanding Delegation at the National Model U.N. Conference in both the 2015 and 2016 competitions. Dr. Glen Duerr, associate professor of international studies and team advisor, explained that much of this success is due to the mindset of the team.

“If our students are going to represent Christ well, it means we’re going to be diligent, we’re going to work hard and we’re going to treat people well,” said Duerr. “And invariably it also has the spill-over effect of leading to some successes.”

This year, students on this 16-member team will act as representatives from the Czech Republic. They will be divided into pairs to participate in eight different committees and work alongside students representing the other 192 countries in the U.N. These committees address a variety of topics such as security and peacekeeping, the environment and nuclear energy.

In order to earn Outstanding Delegation as a team, each student pair must be listed among the top countries in their specific committee. Only 10 percent of schools will achieve this designation. Students are also able to win individual awards and receive recognition for the position paper they submit to their committee.

For Duerr, individual awards and the designation of Outstanding Delegation are important, but they do not define the overall success of the team.

“The hope is to show excellence in what we do, and to represent Christ in that way,” said Duerr. “If it ends up being an Outstanding Delegation award, that’s wonderful. If not, as long as everyone was on task working to the best of their ability, I see that as successful.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.