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## **Champions in Ohio: Cedarville Forensics Team**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** - Cedarville University's forensics team came out on top at the Ohio Forensics Association Novice State Championship tournament on January 26-27 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Cedarville's forensics team took first place in their first speech and debate tournament of the spring semester, followed by Ohio University, Bowling Green State University and the University of Akron.

The Cedarville team placed four members in the top four, including Noah Hollenbach, a sophomore political science student from Moseley, Virginia, who won the debate category. Following Hollenbach in the debate category were Divine Gadi, a junior pharmacy student from Visahapatnam, India in second place; Bryn Golson, a sophomore history student from Knysna, South Africa, in third place; and Lily Ritter, a junior pre-law student from Meade, Kansas, in fourth place.

Five of Cedarville's competitors also won individual speeches. Serine Warner, a junior psychology student from Westerville, Ohio, was awarded first place in the After Dinner Speaking category. Her teammate, Ritter, won first place for her speech in the News Broadcasting category.

Also, Nathanael Kolssak, a sophomore communication student from Winnetka, Illinois was awarded first place in the Impromptu Speaking category. Gracie Eltiste, a freshman nursing student from Lakewood, Colorado, took first place in Prose Interpretation, and Em Seaver, a junior communication student from Ladson, South Carolina, won first place in Programmed Oral Interpretation.

In the varsity division, Erin Mitchell, a sophomore political science student from Roy, Washington, was the tournament champion in debate, going undefeated all weekend.

"The team's success can be attributed to the hard work and time that they put into preparing for this tournament," said [Eric Mishne](#), assistant professor of communication and director of the forensics team.

Although these students were motivated by the competition of the championship tournament, competition is not the reason that they are so dedicated to their craft.

"The forensics team's identity is excellence in competitive speech and debate for God's glory," stated Mishne. "Students on the team grow in their public speaking and argumentation skills as well as build a strong community where they can learn together and share the love of Christ everywhere they go."

Located in southwest Ohio, [Cedarville University](#) is a Baptist university with [undergraduate](#) programs in arts, sciences, and professional programs, and [graduate](#) programs. With an enrollment of 5,456 students in 175 areas of study, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio and is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, and high graduation and retention rates. For more information about the university, visit [cedarville.edu](#).

By Kaylee Guetter

Photo Captions

1- The forensics team had its best performance of the season by winning the Ohio Novice State tournament in Athens, Ohio.