SCCC Grant Campus Speech And Debate Team Victorious; Off To Nationals!

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The Suffolk County Community College Michael J. Grant Campus Speech and Debate Team took home seven trophies at the 2014 New England Forensics Championship at Boston’s Suffolk University last weekend and four team members qualified for the national tournament later this year. Suffolk topped Emerson College and Bridgewater College for the third place overall team title.

Debate Team Vice-President Nick Alleine took first in Informative Speech and third in the Impromptu category, which earned him a spot at the national championships in both categories. Felipe A. Espitia Cetina placed second in Impromptu and will also be heading to the national event. Cetina is also a Suffolk County Community College Student Trustee.

Amanda Korck, public relations officer, placed first in the Praise category, while teammates President Jacqueline Pisyak placed third in Debate Team Victorious. Off By Nationality, East Boston High School placed second in the Debate Team event. Jackie Pisyak is making a new appearance at the national championships. No time in the Persuasion category after appearing last fall in the Dramatic Interpretation slot.

Asistant Professor of Communications and Faculty Advisor Christopher Hofstetter said, the Michael J. Grant Campus Speech and Debate Team has won three national championships and twice won the New York State Championship since 1999 and former team members are now college professors and attorneys.

The team will compete again on February 22 and 23, at the Emerson, Lafayette Swing at Emerson College in Boston.

Fassiaha Haan, of Brentwood

Topic And Length of Speech: Persuasive 10 minutes

‘Digital Dementia’ highlighted how too much time spent using digital devices, especially by younger people, can lead to early age dementia and a deterioration of cognitive abilities.

Nicholas Krauss of West Islip

Topic And Length of Speech: Persuasive 10 minutes

‘America’s Best Kept Secret’ the prison rape epidemic.

Jacqueline Pisyak of Wheatley Heights

Topic And Length of Speech: Persuasive 10 minutes

Predatory Coaching, exploring how some coaches use their power to abuse athletes, both sexually and emotionally.

Nick Alleine of Central Islip

Topic And Length of Speech: Informative 10 minutes

Whole sea wax can be used to measure pollution in the ocean.

Impromptu: 2 minutes prep 5 minutes speech

Amanda Yodice of Bayshore

Topic And Length of Speech: Persuasive 10 minutes

Topic: the various causes of pedestrian fatalities and what can be done to prevent them.

Amanda Korck of Commack

Topic And Length of Speech: Pros 10 minutes

Recited a selection from Mona Simpson, Leaves; a disturbing piece about a daughter taking her identity and power back from her father.

Felipe A. Espitia Cetina of Brentwood

Topic And Length of Speech: Impromptu: 2 minutes prep 5 minute speech