



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

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Team Xavier Scores 11 Trophies at HBCU National Speech and Debate Tournament

New Orleans LA – Team Xavier scored 11 trophies – including one for first place in interviewing and 4th overall in the team sweepstakes – at the first annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) National Speech and Debate Tournament, held at Wiley College.

22 HBCUs competed in the event. As a team, Xavier finished 4th overall in combined sweepstakes, with second and fifth place finishes in the debate and speech competitions, respectively.

Alana Humphrey, a senior neuroscience major from Plymouth MIN (Wayzata High), was the top individual performer for Xavier, taking 1st place in interviewing and scoring in singles debate (semifinalist/#3 best speaker). Also taking home trophies in singles debate were: Elin Hawkins, a senior biology/premed major from Moreno Valley CA (Martin L King High), quarterfinalist/#2 best speaker; Kara Hebert, a sophomore mathematics major from San Carlos CA (Sequoia High), semifinalist; and Kristian Bailey, a sophomore biology/premed major from Ama LA (Shaw High), quarterfinalist. Charles Perkins, a freshman mathematics major from Florissant MO (Jennings High), was a semifinalist in Poetry Slam.

Others competing for Team Xavier were Aungelique McGhee, Javonte Vaden, Adrian Johnson, Yailee Bangura, Mya Jacobs, Kingston Robinson, Kyle Grant, Patrick Bell, and Trevor Samuels. Serving as student judges were Gabrielle Massey and Evelyn Major.

Humphrey serves team president and a student coach, while Hawkins is vice president. Dr. James Dunson and Sarah Meier of the Department of Philosophy are serving as coach/faculty advisor and faculty advisor, respectively.

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, care, and lead their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of “Best Colleges” by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under “Great Schools, Great Prices.”

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the

arts, contact Patrice Bell Mercadel, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at 504-520-5452 or via email at pbellmer@xula.edu.

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