



For Immediate Release

# Shining in the Desert!

**UCSD's Speech & Debate Team Achieves *National Championship* in Two Debate Formats and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall Tournament Sweepstakes Award at Pi Kappa Delta!**



The UCSD Speech & Debate Team sent its top 14 Team Members to the Pi Kappa Delta National Speech and Debate Tournament, held on the campus of Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona, March 7-11. Six additional Team Members submitted speech competition entries via the asynchronous portion of the tournament.

Pi Kappa Delta is an over 100-year-old national forensics honorary, who, for decades has held its national speech and debate tournament. The following is the link to the organization...

[https://pkd.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=842372&module\\_id=290026](https://pkd.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=842372&module_id=290026)



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In only its third attempt at competing in a national tournament and competing with over 50 colleges and universities from across the nation, the UCSD Speech and Debate Team **captured the National Championship in two debate formats**. The team of Felip Gerdes and Jared Hoffart (Team Captain) won the NPDA (two vs. two) competition. Kiran Kumar **won the IPDA (one vs. one) competition**. The team of Julian Mackenzie and Carter Castillo took **2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Public Forum debate format competition**.

For total school performance, UCSD captured **2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the all-formats debate sweepstakes competition and ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall speech and debate competition combined**. For speech events alone, UCSD earned an **“Excellent”** Award for finishing in the top 20% of schools.

Additional debate competition results included:

IPDA Semi-Finalist: Carter Castillo

IPDA Quarter-Finalist: Lucas Howard-Ron

IPDA Octo-Finalist: Yiquan Liu

Lincoln-Douglas Quarter-Finalist: Cindy Chanay

Public Forum Quarter-Finalists: Felip Gerdes & Yiquan Liu and Jared Hoffart & Lucas Howard-Ron

The following table lists the speaker awards earned by UCSD debaters.

Event	Team Member	Speaker Award
IPDA	Kiran Kumar	1st place
IPDA	Carter Castillo	8th place
NPDA	Felip Gerdes	8th place
Lincoln Douglas	Cindy Chanay	3rd place
Public Forum	Carter Castillo	2nd place
Public Forum	Lucas Howard-Ron	4th place
Public Forum	Julian Mackenzie	7th place
Public Forum	Felip Gerdes	8th place
Public Forum	Khushi Kumar	10th place



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In the speech events, the Tournament awarded “Excellent” Awards to the top 20% and “Superior” Awards to the top 10% of competitors. The following table lists UCSD’s 8 Excellent Awards and 5 Superior Awards. Carter Castillo **won the Spanish Platform competition and was named the top speaker of the Tournament.**

Event	Team Member	Award
Impromptu	Darief Maes	Superior
Impromptu	Dasha Okoloysheva	Excellent
Extemporaneous	Felip Gerdes	Superior
Extemporaneous	Lucas Howard-Ron	Superior
Extemporaneous	Carter Castillo	Excellent
Extemporaneous	Dayyan Rizvi	Excellent
Extemporaneous	Jared Hoffart	Excellent
Broadcast Journalism	Jared Hoffart	Excellent
Speech to Entertain	Kellen Foster	Excellent
Spanish Interpretation	Cindy Chanay	Superior, 2nd place
Interviewing	Kiran Kumar	Superior
Student Scholarship	Adrian Ibarra	Excellent
Podcasting	Adrian Ibarra	Excellent

Jared Hoffart, Team Captain, observed, “This national tournament was a rewarding experience for our top Team Members and Team Leadership. Our awards represent the culmination of a great deal of hard work that not only built ourselves up individually, but also strengthened us as a Team. We are exceptionally proud to bring this national honor and attention to UCSD.”

Head Coach, Robert Campbell, concluded, “This was UCSD’s first debate team out-of-state ‘road trip’ as a caravan of five cars left campus for Arizona last Thursday. The multiple debate-event and speech-event four-day tournament was a marathon for our best and finest. The results are spectacular on this national stage. For a program only six years old, I am simply amazed by the talent on this team. To win so many awards at the prestigious Pi Kappa Delta national tournament clearly places UCSD as one of the top speech and debate teams in the country.”