

District Student of the Year Nomination [Riley Albertson]

National Speech & Debate Association <info@speechanddebate.org>

Thu 1/25/2018 9:26 AM

To:impulse411@hotmail.com <impulse411@hotmail.com>;

Hi Joe,

Below is a nomination for District Student of the Year submitted by Sam Garchik for consideration by your District Committee. A copy of this form has also been sent to the national office.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please email info@speechanddebate.org.

Coach Information

Nominating Coach

Sam Garchik

Nominating Coach Email

sam.garchik@ottumwaschools.com

School

Ottumwa High School

State

Iowa

District Information

District

East Iowa (IA)

District Chair Name

Joe Rankin

District Chair Email

impulse411@hotmail.com

Student Information

Student Name

Riley Albertson

Grad Year

2018

Academic Achievements

GPA	/ out of (scale)	Weighted (Yes/No)	AP (Yes/No)	IB Certificate(s) (Yes/No)	IB Diploma (Yes/No)	Cambridge (Yes/No)
4.0	4.0	N	Y	N	N	N

Merit Points

Total years of speech/debate experience (include this school year)	Debate Points	Speech Points	Congress Points	Service Points	District Points	National Points
757	483	5		207	62	0

List the top three speech and debate achievements of which this student is most proud.

Year	Tournament/Organization and Event	Place/Honor
2015	Des Moines Dowling	Octos and TOC Bid
2016	East Iowa Districts	3-2
2016	WDM Valley	Break out Rounds 4-3

Essay from Nominating Coach

Student's Disposition Toward Speech/Debate and Exhibition of Code of Honor Tenets

Riley Albertson is one of the finest debaters I have ever coached. Additionally, her unquestioned ethic makes every competitor on our team better. She is a fine addition to the Honor Roll that is "Academic All American," at the National Speech and Debate Association.

I am currently the librarian and debate coach at Ottumwa High School. Since I began work as the coach in 2014, I have come to know Riley through the school's debate program. For the past four years, she has been an integral part of the team, providing the backbone and foundation we need as we seek to rebuild the program. During this time, I have seen Riley's work ethic in action. I have seen how she balances school and debate, making sure that she gives each her full attention. In fact, during her free time, she is also a member of the school's Large Group speech team, where she has competed in One Act and Reader's Theater at the state level and above. Additionally, she works 20 hours a week and participates in both Marching Band and Show Choir. Last year, she made the double-octo's round at the Mid-America Valley Cup while participating, THAT SAME DAY, in a marching band competition in Pella. Clearly, she's someone who commits to all of her responsibilities. Her abilities are most pronounced when looking at her past record. Against much stiffer competition, her average speaker points per round have gone up, and now she leads the team in that category. Furthermore, her dedication to our team has encouraged me to use her as a judge for tournaments.

I have come to know her as an enthusiastic learner with a tireless work ethic. As someone who works in a knowledge economy workplace, I recognize her talents, incisive mind, and eager-to-learn attitude. Riley has managed to complete all of her commitments to debate while maintaining a flawless GPA. She has also grown as a competitor after attending the Nebraska Debate Institute summer camp in 2016. She came back to us with extensive notes, and an eagerness to help us groom first year competitors, all of whom had fairly successful seasons because of Riley's guidance.

This year, because of team requirements, Riley continues to transition from a team debater to a competitor in Lincoln-Douglass. As part of that steep learning curve, she has challenged herself. She has found herself in rounds against opponents who have both gone to debate institute in L-D, but have competed at high levels. However, she has continued her fearless approach, and threatens to become one of our district's finest competitors. Her leadership is significant, as several of our younger team members, who are undergoing the same transition as she is, continue to flourish under her tutelage. Meanwhile, Riley has started a second job, managing her time to find success, no matter the circumstance.

Ultimately, this work is indicative of the kind of person she is, one who cares instinctually about making the world around her a better place.