

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2-3-2025

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## **Hoosier Invitational Hosted by Indiana University**

Bloomington, IN – Indiana University hosted the Hoosier Invitational tournament on the weekend of January 24-26, 2026. The tournament was attended by 26 teams between Novice and Open divisions.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about labor policy. The full wording of the topic is “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States.”

Students participating in the tournament debate half of their preliminary debates in favor of the resolution and half of their preliminary debates in opposition to the resolution.

At the conclusion of the preliminary debates, the tournament seeded teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points in the Open division. Elimination debates are single elimination for the top eleven teams.

Teams from Western Kentucky University, Northwestern University, Indiana University, the University of Wyoming, the University of Michigan, Missouri State University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of North Texas participated in elimination debates.

A partial octofinals and a full quarterfinals set up two semifinals debates. The University of Western Kentucky debated Northwestern University, and the University of Michigan debated Missouri State University. Northwestern University and the University of Michigan came out on top to reach the finals.

Robert Ou and William Agustin from the University of Michigan won the final round and were named division champions at the tournament.

The Novice division features students who are in their first year of competitive debate. After five rounds of preliminary competition, the University of Kentucky and Indiana University advanced to the final round. Adam Foudali and Rowlin Garcia from Indiana University won the novice division.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Novice division, Adam Foudali from Indiana University was top speaker. Wheezy Ervin from the University of Kentucky was top speaker in the Open division.

### **About the American Debate Association**

The American Debate Association began in 1985 as an intercollegiate debate association. It uses the resolution selected by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. Currently they have 44 member schools. The ADA's mission is increasing participation, maintaining a balance between education and competition, and ensuring an equitable and fair activity for all programs, regardless of their size or experience.

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