



n e w s r e l e a s e

L o s A n g e l e s V a l l e y C o l l e g e

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2011

LAVC SPEECH TEAM RANKED THE BEST IN THE U.S.

**Valley College earns the team gold medal at Nationals
for the 3rd time in 4 years**

VALLEY GLEN, CA — The LAVC Speech Team claimed the National Championship Team Gold Medal for a 3rd time—in the past 4 years—at the 2011 Phi Rho Pi National Public Speaking Championship Tournament in Greenwich, Connecticut on April 12-16, 2011.

“LAVC is proud to have the best speech teams in the nation,” said Dr. Sue Carleo, president of LAVC. “It truly exemplifies the quality of our programs at Valley College.”

The LAVC Speech Team competed against 53 other community colleges, and over 500 students from all across the United States. The team earned a total of 18 individual medals including eight gold medals, four silver medals, and six bronze medals.

The following is a list of the members of the award-winning team, and the medals earned by each member:

- Karine Bagoumian - *Gold Medal: Drama; Silver Medal: Readers Theater; Bronze Medal: Prose*
- Daniel Caceres - *Gold Medal: Readers Theater; Silver Medal: Prose*
- Christen Gerhart - *Bronze Medal: Speech To Entertain; Bronze Medal: Prose*
- LD Green - *Gold Medal: Duo Interpretation of Literature*
- John Thomas Hooper
- Cristina Leiva - *Gold Medal: Readers Theater*
- Rick Magana - *Gold Medal: Readers Theater; Bronze Medal: Informative Speaking*
- Kathyeryne Martinez - *Gold Medal: Readers Theater*

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- Michelle Peery - *Silver Medal: Readers Theater*
- Gilma Perez - *Bronze Medal: Communication Analysis; Silver Medal: Readers Theater*
- Albert Pugliese
- TJ Rosas - *Gold Medal: Duo Interpretation of Literature; Bronze Medal: Drama*
- Karen Yelverton - *Gold Medal: Poetry; Silver Medal: Programmed Oral Interpretation of Literature; Silver Medal: Readers Theater*

The LAVC Speech Team is coached by Duane Smith, director of the Speech Team, Joshua Miller, chair of the Speech Department, Eric Cullather, faculty coach in the Speech Department, Lecoya Lejeune, volunteer coach, and Robyn Jackson, volunteer coach.

This year, the team and its members have consistently ranked very high in their competitions. At the state championship in March, the team earned a total of 14 medals. Gregory Pugliese, who was unable to make it to the National Championship, took top honors by being named as best in the state in the Informative Speaking category and earned the honored distinction of a “lowest cumulative score” rating. In addition, L.D. Green was named best in the state in the Dramatic Interpretation category, and L.D. Green and T.J. Rosas were named best in the state in the Duo Interpretation category.

“I am very thrilled about the continued success of our speech team”, said Smith. “It goes to show that excellence does happen at community colleges!”

For more information on Los Angeles Valley College, visit www.lavc.edu.

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About Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC)

Los Angeles Valley College, established in 1949, is a public two-year community college situated in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. As one of the largest campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District