



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSUING TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

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Hillsdale College Hosts National American Legion Oratorical Contest

Students gave speeches on the Constitution and competed for scholarships.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Hillsdale College hosted the national American Legion Oratorical Contest for the third time May 16-17. Fifty-three high school finalists from around the country gave speeches on the U.S. Constitution and competed for scholarships.

“This contest helps students learn to think and speak well in defense of our Constitution and our founding principles,” said Rich Péwé, chief administrative officer for Hillsdale College. “It is an honor to partner with the American Legion to help raise up the next generation of American citizens and statesmen.”

Juliet Hetzel, a senior from Colorado Springs, Colorado, won first place for her speech “The Role of Religion in Civic Duty.” Wendy Gluski, a senior from Scottsdale, Arizona, won second place, and Judah Donnelly, a senior from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, won third.

Contestants each gave a prepared oration on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen’s duties and obligations to our government. Each contestant also gave a shorter discourse focused on a specific Constitutional provision assigned to all contestants immediately beforehand.

This year, the contest provided more than \$203,000 in college scholarships, including \$25,000 for first place, \$22,500 for second place, and \$20,000 for third place at the national level.

For more information about the competition, click [here](#). For an official recording, click [here](#). For photos of Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About The American Legion

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with nearly two million members in 12,875 posts in communities across America. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 7.5 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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