

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY AT THE NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT

(information taken from Bill Southworth's The History of the NDT: 1947-2005 and notes from Rod Phares)

National Rankings in Appearances and Success at the National Debate Tournament

Wayne State University qualified 83 teams to the National Debate Tournament since 1946, when the tournament was first held. These results place Wayne State seventh in the nation for qualifying teams to the National Tournament.

In addition, Wayne State has had teams participate at the National Debate Tournament 49 years between 1946 and 2017. We rank 11th in the nation for the most years in attendance at the National Tournament.

In terms of competitive success at the National Tournament, Wayne State ranks 16th in nation in NDT preliminary round win-loss percentage (273 wins, 256 losses, 52%), 15th in elimination round win-loss percentage (47.6%) (20 wins, 22 losses) and 17th in combined preliminary/elimination round win-loss percentage (293 wins, 278 losses, 571 total rounds, 51.3%). Additionally, Wayne ranks 15th in nation for most teams appearing in elimination rounds (22 teams).

Due to the outstanding work of Dr. George Ziegelmueller, his staff and the alumni in hosting the National Tournament at Wayne State, Wayne was voted "Best Host of the NDT of the 1990s."

Individual Awards at the National Debate Tournament

Top Ten Speaker Awards:

- 1961 Paul Nine 9th Speaker overall
- 1968 Don Ritzenhein 7th Speaker overall
- 1980 Scott Harris 8th Speaker overall
- 1981 Scott Harris 2nd Speaker overall
- 1994 Toby Arquette 9th Speaker overall
- 1996 Chris LaVigne 2nd Speaker overall
- 2007 Gabe Murillo 1st Speaker overall

First Round at Large Awards/Automatic Qualifiers to the Tournament (First round qualifiers system created in 1973):

- 1973 Christine Crimando and Mike Nolan
- 1980 Scott Harris and Kevin Buchanan

- 1981 Scott Harris and David Debold
- 1992 Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
- 1993 Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
- 1994 Toby Arquette and Jennifer Kowalski
- 1995 Chris LaVigne and Ron Stevenson
- 1996 Chris LaVigne and Brian Wassom
- 2006 Matthew Farmer & Gabe Murillo
- 2007 Andy Timmons & Gabe Murillo

Elimination Round Participants:

- 1961 Octafinalist Paul Nine and Ray Wilkes
- 1963 Octafinalist Dave Getto and Ray Wilkes
- 1966 2nd Place Kathleen McDonald and Douglas Frost
- 1967 2nd Place Kathleen McDonald-Ling and Don Ritzenhein
- 1968 Quarterfinalist Don Ritzenhein and Brenda Robinson
- 1979 Octafinalist Scott Harris and Chris Varjabedian
- 1980 Octafinalist Scott Harris and Kevin Buchanan
- 1981 Quarterfinalist Scott Harris and David Debold
- 1985 Octafinalist Ben Biermann and Jeff Mondak
- 1988 Octafinalist Dean Groulx and Scott Thompson
- 1991 Octafinalist Derek Gaffrey and Ilon Lauer
Octafinalist Toby Arquette and Patrice Arend
- 1992 Quarterfinalist Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
- 1993 Octafinalist Elizabeth Holcomb and Jennifer Kowalski
Semifinalist Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
- 1994 Octafinalist Chris LaVigne and Ron Stevenson
Quarterfinalist Toby Arquette and Jennifer Kowalski
- 1995 Quarterfinalist Chris LaVigne and Ron Stevenson
- 1996 Octafinalist Chris LaVigne and Brian Wassom
- 1997 Double Octafinalist Angela Cowan and Jacob Thompson
- 2002 Double Octafinalist Stephanie Gerali and Michael Weitz
- 2003 Double Octafinalist Michael Weitz and Matthew Farmer
- 2005 Double Octafinalist Matthew Farmer and Gabe Murillo
- 2006 Semifinals Matthew Farmer and Gabe Murillo
- 2007 Semifinals Gabe Murillo and Andy Timmons
- 2014 Double Octafinalist Michael Leap and Kristen Messina

Participants at the National Debate Tournament

- 1958 R. Wayne Cain and Art Yahrmater
- 1961 Paul Nine and Ray Wilkes
- 1963 Dave Getto and Ray Wilkes
- 1964 Russ Davidson and Dave Getto
- 1965 David Ling and Sandra Purnell
- 1966 Douglas Frost and Kathleen McDonald

1967 Kathleen McDonald-Ling and Don Ritzenhein
1968 Don Ritzenhein and Brenda Robinson
1969 Frank Greco and Diane Soubly
1971 Wally Jones and David White
1972 Ted Amsden and Christine Crimando
1973 Christine Crimando and Mike Nolan
1977 William Hurley and Chris Varjabedian
1978 Scott Harris and Debbie McCulley
1979 Scott Harris and Chris Varjabedian
Michael Craig and Kent Martini
1980 Scott Harris and Kevin Buchanan
Michael Craig and David Debold
1981 Scott Harris and David Debold
Nancy Legge and Kim Garvin
1982 Nancy Legge and Kim Garvin
1983 Scott Hanley and Jeff Mozal
Jeff Mondak and Kim White
1984 Jeff Mondak and Jeff Mozal
Ben Biermann and Kim White
1985 Ben Biermann and Jeff Mondak
Kathleen Edelmayer and Lisa Iulianelli
1986 Ben Biermann and Dean Groulx
Kathleen Edelmayer and Shannon Richey
1987 Scott Thompson and Michael Warren
Dean Groulx and Shannon Richey
1988 Dean Groulx and Scott Thompson
Michael Warren and Sydne Kasle
1989 Scott Thompson and Michael Warren
Bob Bryant and Patrice Arend
1990 Bob Bryant and Patrice Arend
Steve Prannes and Scott Warrow
1991 Derek Gaffrey and Ilon Lauer
Toby Arquette and Patrice Arend
1992 Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
Elizabeth Holcomb and David Mithofer
1993 Toby Arquette and Derek Gaffrey
Elizabeth Holcomb and Jennifer Kowalski
Terry Fischer and Ron Stevenson
1994 Toby Arquette and Jennifer Kowalski
Chris LaVigne and Ron Stevenson
1995 Jennifer Kowalski and Danille Wiese
Chris LaVigne and Ron Stevenson
1996 Chris LaVigne and Brian Wassom
Angela Cowan and Danielle Wiese

1997 Angela Cowan and Jacob Thompson
Joe Lopata and Amy Lewis
1998 Kelley Skillin and Jon Andrus
Dan Gainer and Amy Lewis
1999 Kelley Skillin and Jon Andrus
Dan Gainer and Kristy Opalewski
Joseph Battocletti and Stephanie Gerali
2000 Stephanie Gerali and Ben Hillard
2001 Stephanie Gerali and Ben Hillard
2002 Stephanie Gerali and Michael Weitz
2003 Matthew Farmer and Michael Weitz
D.M. Boykin and Jeremy Johnson
2004 Matthew Farmer and Michael Weitz
D.M. Boykin and Jeremy Johnson
2005 Matthew Farmer and Gabe Murillo
Joseph Battocletti and Andrew Timmons
2006 Matthew Farmer and Gabe Murillo
Jennifer Schraeder and Mike Markovic
2007 Andy Timmons and Gabe Murillo
Dustin Greenwalt and David Rancilio
2008 Bruce Najor and Sydney Pasquinelli
Dustin Greenwalt and Jason Pearsall
2009 Alex and Sydney Pasquinelli
2011 Alan Gocha and Michael Leap
Harinder Rai and Amrit Kamboj
2012 Michael Leap and Kristen Messina
Jacob Justice and Brad Meloche
2013 Michael Leap and Kristen Messina
Jacob Justice and Talya Slaw
2014 Michael Leap and Kristen Messina
Jacob Justice and Talya Slaw
2015 Jeff Nagel and Talya Slaw
2017 Kristina Curtiss and Douglas Husic
2018 Kristina Curtiss and Douglas Husic
2020 Darcell Brown and Brandon Reynolds