



207 W Main Ave  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
[www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us](http://www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

Contact: Stephanie Hansen, Community Relations  
Phone: 701.356.2000  
Email: [info@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:info@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Three Students Representing SHS at National Speech & Debate Association Tournament

West Fargo, ND – (April 18, 2017) – West Fargo Sheyenne High School’s speech team competed at the North Dakota Roughrider District Qualifying Tournament at the Mandan Baymont Inn & Suites on April 9-11. The district qualifying tournament determines the national qualifiers hosted by the National Speech and Debate Association. The national tournament is held in Birmingham, Alabama on June 19-23 and is the largest academic competition in the world with over 4,000 competitors each year. Three sophomores will represent Sheyenne High School at the national tournament.

Preeti Chemiti qualified in International Extemporaneous Speaking and Original Oratory; this will be Chemiti’s second time at the national tournament. Zaynab Said qualified in Program Oral Interpretation with her piece titled “Black. American.”; this will also be Said’s second time at nationals. Dhruvika Patel will be attending the national tournament for the first time and will be one of ten North Dakota students to compete on one of two World Schools Debate teams.

The team is coached by Kelsey Johnson, Krista Hulderman, and James Cavo. Nine other Sheyenne students represented the team at the District Qualifier: Ty Schonert, Crystal Deng, Rebecca Duncan, Abril Arce, Esofi Nunyi, Taylor Kimball, Parker Faris, Josh Kramer, and Luke Young.

The National Speech & Debate Association is the largest interscholastic speech and debate organization serving middle school, high school, and collegiate students in the United States. The Association provides competitive speech and debate activities, high-quality resources, comprehensive training, scholarship opportunities, and advanced recognition to more than 150,000 students and coaches every year. For 90 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has empowered more than 1.5 million members to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals, and honorable leaders in our society. For more information, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).