

PRESS RELEASE

Howard University to Host National High School Forensics Academy and Tournament Summer 2004

Washington, DC (January 26, 2004) --- Howard University is pleased to announce the 2004 National High School Forensics Academy and Tournament at the John H. Johnson School of Communications.

This Academy awards winners tuition scholarships to Howard University and other prizes. The students experience life on a college campus; visit Capitol Hill and the U.S. Supreme Court and attend an Academy awards banquet and gala. The Academy's program is scheduled to run from July 1 - July 11, 2004.

Howard University holds the 2003 Mock Trial National Division Title. The team is off to another strong start this mock trial tournament season and the University is ranked 4th in exhibiting best campus activism in the nation. "I am pleased with the team's current status and excited about the direction in which our forensics endeavors are headed," said Jannette L. Dates, Dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications. "I am looking forward to the effects the Academy will have on high school debaters who come to Howard."

An impressive array of national public and political figures, federal and state court judges, attorneys, college coaches and notable others will address and interact with the students through a rigorous academic framework of general assembly lectures, small group sessions, rounds of competition and an awards ceremony. Participants will be trained in the areas of critical thinking, research, oral communication, listening and note-taking skills, while increasing their knowledge about the world and the ethics of advocacy and public speaking.

Academy Director and ABC-TV 7 Legal Analyst, Attorney John W. Davis, II notes, "The Academy is designed to fuse substantive academics with the enthusiasm of competitive sports. We seek students from all over the country, but will focus on the Mid- Atlantic region for the summer of 2004. We will host 200 high school students in novice and advanced debate, mock trial and individual event competitions, in addition to 25 coaches, in a premier ten-day all- inclusive summer "forensics sport-camp" and pre-season tournament in preparation for the 2004-2005 tournament season."

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