



6th National Developmental Conference (NDC)-Individual Events (IE) June 19-20, 2020 Hosted Online by Illinois State University

This summer will mark 10 years since the last National Developmental Conference on Individual Events. Though a decade has passed, some topics remain just as salient as they were ten years ago. Several urgent issues that exist at the helm of our activity. These topics include but are not limited to: sexual harassment training, open door policies, wellness, use of original material and the necessary growth of online tournaments. All of these areas can and will be addressed by the major intercollegiate forensics organizations. As such, the need for a new NDC-IE conference was imperative.

The **First NDC-IE** conference was held in Denver, Colorado in the summer of 1988. 81 participants met for three days to regroup, reflect, and plan the future of forensics. By breaking into panel sessions for presentations and discussions, the participants collaborated to reach consensus on guidelines for the future of the activity. The first NDC-IE included papers written on topics ranging from judge training to the role of graduate assistants to fostering better connections with high school programs to ethics in forensics. The conference concluded with a general business meeting where participants proposed resolutions for the forensics community and the governing organizations to consider.

The **Second NDC-IE** conference occurred two years later in Mankato, Minnesota in the summer of 1990. 81 participants met to discuss topics such as new coaches, judge training, recruitment, community college programs, the AFA-NIET qualification process and ethical uses of evidence.

The **Third NDC-IE** conference occurred seven years later in Houston, Texas. The conference hosted by Rice University and Tyler Junior College in the summer of 1997. 40 participants met and addressed key issues such as judge training and tournament management. In addition, this NDC-IE was marked by timely discussion of NPDA and NFA-LD.

The **Fourth NDC-IE** conference occurred eleven years later in Peoria, Illinois. The conference was hosted by Bradley University in the summer of 2008. This NDC-IE included the largest attendance ever with 93 participants. The topics discussed included: research, the role of a DOF, growth of programs, ethics in forensics, tournament administration, education/competitive duality, growth of the activity and debate and IE relationships.

The **Fifth NDC-IE** was hosted two years later in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the summer of 2010. 90 participants presented papers discussing public speaking events, limited preparation events, oral interpretation events, forensic leadership issues, forensics and service learning and tournament assessment.

Proceedings of the 6th NDC-IE

The June 19-20 National Developmental Conference (NDC) on Individual Events (IE) was a series of free zoom webinars sponsored in a joint effort by AFA-NST, NFA, PKD, and PRP. The overall goal of the conference was to work together to set shared standards for the upcoming 2020-2021 season because of

the uncertain times for intercollegiate forensics. The conference provided a collaborative space for the forensic community to discuss best and promising practices.

Prior to the conference, the NDC-IE planning committee sponsored a COVID-19 Coaches Webinar on May 1st, 2020. The recordings of the sessions by AFA-NST, NFA, PKD, and PRP can be found [HERE](#)

The June 19-20 conference was divided into three distinct webinar sessions on the following topics: (1) **Saving Your Forensics Program**, (2) **Reviving Forensics**, and (3) **On-line Tournament Strategies and Best Practices**. Each session featured guest panelists and moderators who shared helpful resources with those who attended. In total, 202 participants registered and participated virtually.

Saving Your Program

Reshaping & Expanding Our Mission as a Co-curricular Activity in the Time of Covid -19

Judy Santacaterina and Matt Dupuis (Northern Illinois University) will present a written report with some strategies to "pivot" our programs and include valuable experiences outside the competitive arena.

****Reshaping and Expanding our Mission Google Slides**

Competitive and Collaborative Options for Forensic Programs in Virtual Settings

Jay Bourne (University of the Cumberlands) will explore options used for debate tournaments in the past, collaboration options both on campus and on other campuses, and program options with other teams and organizations.

****Competitive and Collaborative Options Handout**

The Loyal Opposition: A Critical View of Online Tournaments

Chris Langone (Oakton Community College) will argue the importance of face-to-face forensics integration and problems with normalizing on-line competition.

****NO RESOURCE PROVIDED**

Reviving Forensics (3 sessions)

Reviving Healthy Practices at Face-to-Face Tournaments (Session 1)

Coming Together: Exploring Peer Verbal Abuse and Combating Conflict

Elizabeth Hansen (Hastings College) will provide an outline for a protection policy that students can adopt into their team handbooks. The handout will provide common themes of verbal abuse, an established system towards ending verbal abuse, and ways coaches can support students.

****Coming Together Powerpoint**

****Protection Policy**

And The Award Goes To..." Award Ceremonies in a Time of Social Distancing.

Jay Bourne (University of the Cumberlands) will review the variety of methods speech and debate tournaments currently use for awards, point out strengths and weaknesses of each, offer alternative options, and explore options other organizations are using for award presentations.

****And the Award Goes To Document**

Best Practices for Safety in Face-to-Face Tournaments

Nikki Freeman (University of Central Missouri) **Sara Gronstal** (Eastern Illinois University) and **Julie Walker** (Southwest Minnesota State University) will discuss best practices regarding forensics health and wellness practices and norms in the wake of COVID-19 and the changes to Title IX.

**** Healthy Face-to-Face Guide**

****Wellness Table Guide**

Certifying Judges: The Mandatory Judge Training Course

Karen Morris (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire) will walk us through the mandatory judge training course NFA was to implement for the 2020 National Championship Tournament.

****Link to the IE Judge Training Course**

****Link to the NFA-LD Judge Training Course**

****NFA Judge Certification Google Slide Show**

Reviving the Fun of Forensics (Session 2)

Morale and Motivation: Nurturing Team Cohesion During COVID-19

Kittie Gace and Austin McDonald (Hastings College) explain that virtual connection takes more energy and commitment than face-to-face connections and they offer strategies to help a team thrive. These strategies come in three areas 1. Reducing isolation and uncertainty 2. Providing clear and fluid expectations 3. Focusing on process oriented goals all while in a virtual environment. The presentation will focus on tips and exercises for building morale and motivating a team through these three areas.

****Morale and Motivation Guide**

Reviving Accessibility & Individual Events (Session 3)

Listening to The Question: Is Forensics Really Accessible and Accountable for Disenfranchised Communities?

Nathan Carter (Northern Virginia Community College) will overview several ongoing issues in competitive forensics that are related to the silencing of disenfranchised communities in the hope of facilitating a critical and helpful discussion on first steps to address the gaps.

****Listening to the Question Document**

Improving Extemp within Collegiate Forensics

Samantha Burke (Hastings College) speaks about research conducted regarding the experience of extemp speaking in collegiate forensics, suggestions are provided on how to improve the tournament experience for students in extemp.

****Improving Extemp Handout**

****Improving Extemp Google Slides**

Opportunities for a Cultural and Accessibility Change in Extemp Delivery

Nance Riffe (University of North Carolina-Charlotte) will share tips for how to change the delivery in extemp so that it highlights accessibility opportunities.

****Change in Extemp Delivery Powerpoint**

Becoming A Virtual Host: How to Run an Online Tournament

Brandon Johnson (Cornell University) covers the basics for creating an online tournament and hosting site. He also talks about best practices for how to make the experience accessible to students and judges. He will discuss the differences between preparing for an in person tournament vs. an online tournament.

****Big Remote Tournament of Love User Guide**

Online Tournaments Strategies and Best Practices (2 sessions)

Hosting the Online Tournament (Session 1)

Lessons Learned from the 2020 National Online Collegiate Forensics Festival

Danny Cantrel (Mt. San Antonio College) will provide the resources and discuss the process of hosting the 2020 festival on-line.

****2020 National Online Collegiate Festival Playlist**

****Judging Guidelines (O.F.R.E.D)**

****Competitor Guidelines (O.F.R.E.D)**

****Reflections on Hosting 2020 National Online Forensics Festival Google Slide**

Asynchronous Tournaments: A Resource for Now and the Future

Erick Roebuck and Jared Kubicka-Miller (SEARK College and Santiago Canyon College) share their experience with an asynchronous tournament hosted with the organization, protocommunications.com. Additionally, they will propose a possible season format for asynchronous competition that can begin immediately or after the pandemic.

****2020 Awards for 1st Annual ProtoCommunications Asynchronous Speech Tournament**

****2020 ProtoCommunications Asynchronous Tournament**

****Asynchronous Forensics League**

Online Tournaments and SpeechWire: The Show Goes On

Ben Stewart (SpeechWire) details the various ways that people have administered online contests on SpeechWire, and ideas for the future regarding online contests.

**** Speechwire Powerpoint**

**** Speechwire Handout**

Yaatly Online Platform

Denise Vaughan founder of Yaatly did not attend the conference but wanted coaches to know that she offers her assistant to those who are interested in using Yaatly.

denise_vaughan@hotmail.com (Yaatly founder)

Yaatly on-line platform for tournaments

Competing / Judging at the Online Tournament (Session 2)

Navigating the Digital Divide

Dawn Lowry (George Mason University) talks about how we are essentially switching from an interpersonal medium to a mass medium. Coaches and competitors should have equal access to the visual vocabulary that society has learned through a lifetime of exposure to mass media.

****Navigating the Digital Divide Handout**

****Digital Divide Paper**

Upending Performance Norms and Engaging Through Social Media

Megan Koch (Illinois State University) analyzes the Forensics performance norms that do not translate well to online and video competition. Students will join the presentation to demonstrate examples and discuss tactics Forensics teams can use to turn this channel of communication into a beautiful stage for competition and a tool for extended advocacy and program promotion.

****No Resource Provided**

Our hope is that the 7th NDC-IE Conference will occur in two years during the summer of 2022. Collectively, we believe intercollegiate forensics as both an art form and a powerful activity still has so many more issues to address. Specifically, we support actions to increase equity, accessibility and accountability within our community. We hope the next conference can continue our collective dedication to the issues as laid out in the **Four Families Statement**.

We wish all the best in the upcoming season and beyond.

Sincerely,

The 2020 NDC-IE Committee

[Karen Morris](#) (*Chair*) and [Megan Koch](#) (*Host*)

[Nance Riffe](#) and [Lee Mayfield](#) (*AFA-NST*)

[Justin Rudnick](#) and [Nikki Freeman](#) (*NFA*)

[M'Liss Hindman](#) and [Nathan Carter](#) (*PRP*)

[Tomeka Robinson](#) and [Trent Webb](#) (*PKD*)