**Pacific Lutheran University Womxn’s Round Robin Championships Invite**

**March 23, 2018**

 Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the T.O.H. Karl Forensics Forum, we are pleased to invite you to the third annual Womxn’s Round Robin. This **free** round robin tournament will take place March 23rd, the day before the USU Western States Championship at Pacific Lutheran University on March 24th.

Recognizing the data indicating that women and gender minorities compete at lower rathes than men, win less often than men, and maintain fewer ties to the debate community afer successful debating careers than men, the Womxn’s Round Robin aims to foster a safe, mentoring environment for women in debate.

In the United States and particularly the West Coast, there is a considerable lack of solutions for the gender disparities in debate. This year, the PLU Womxn’s Round Robin returns to continue the trend of inclusion that is growing in the tradition of other women’s tournaments in the United States and Canada, as well as ongoing discussions of equity. This tournament also serves to provide additional practice for women and gender minorities prior to competing in the USU Western States Championship.

**Debater and adjudicator qualification**

This is a women’s tournament that is open to *anyone who does not identify as a cis-gendered man such as genderqueer, transgender, gender fluid, non-binary individuals, and any other minority gender identity*. We will aim to panel adjudications under these same requirements.

We also encourage all schools to partner teams in the Australasian Women’s Debating Championship’s tradition of “pro-am”. What this means is that we would like to have a well-experienced debater partnered with a less experienced or novice debater. We realize some constraints exist on making this possible and it is therefore not mandatory; we won’t be going through and checking the competitive records of everyone involved.

To better allow for the pro-am partnerships to occur, we will have this tournament as an “open” competition and allow hybrid teams from different institutions. Individual debaters who do not have partners may apply to compete and may be placed in pro-am partnerships to facilitate competition.

**Tournament format**

The tournament will be held in the British Parliamentary style of debate and held as a round robin competition. The team entries will be capped at 12 (3 rooms of competition).

We will panel rooms with 2-3 judges and are therefore also looking for 8-10 judges and would like schools to follow the n-1 rule for judges. However, we highly encourage schools to enroll an adjudicator even if they only register one team. Women who adjudicate face even greater limitations to their success than debaters.

There will be 4 rounds of competition in order to ensure that teams get practice in a variety of positions. At the conclusion of the 4 rounds, we will recognize the team with the highest cumulative rankings and speaker points as well as a top individual speaker.

**CA Team and Motions**

The tournament will be managed by Co-CA’s Tiffany Wilk, Melanie Nadon, and Angie Tinker. Open applications for participation in the adjudication corps will be accepted, and successful applicants will be recognized as they are selected. There will NOT be a focus on solely gender issues motions, the competition will feature the usual broad spectrum of topics for a BP tournament.

**Equity Policy**

Debate should be about ideas, not disrespect towards participants. As such, all participants should treat each other with respect and care.

* No participant may make denigrating comments or actions on the basis of any non-political identity basis including age, race/color, sex, disability, religion, gender identity, sexuality, HIV/Hepatitis C status, national origin, marital status, use of a service animal, and veteran/military status.
* No participant may harass, threaten or intimidate other participants that limit another participant’s ability to participate in or benefit from the debate tournament.
* No participant may take, damage or destroy any property that does not belong to them.
* No participant may harass, threaten or intimidate delegates to vote a particular way.

Conduct specifically expected of debaters:

* Debaters will treat the occasion, each other, and the adjudicators with respect and courtesy.
* Debaters will use pronouns or apply other important information as requested and if no pronouns are requested, use gender neutral pronouns or speaker positions.
* Debaters will respect the rules of the competition.
* Debaters will accept the adjudicator’s decision.
* Debaters will not disrupt or distract from another debater’s speech or the adjudicators’ comments.

Conduct specifically expected of adjudicators:

* Adjudicators will get their ballots and begin rounds on time
* Adjudicators will give competitors the opportunity to state their preferred pronoun or any important information for their participation and follow that lead; if no pronouns are requested, use gender neutral pronouns or speaker positions.
* Adjudicators will judge rounds objectively and professionally;
* Adjudicators will treat all debaters and panelists with respect and courtesy;
* Adjudicators will limit their adjudications including returning their ballots to the ballot table/tabulation within 15 minutes.
* Adjudicators will make constructive comments to help debaters improve.

If the equity policy is violated, an equity issue can be brought to the equity officers or the CA team for resolution. Resolution may include investigation, warnings, modifications to scores in a debate round, expulsion from the tournament, reports to the university, reports to law enforcement officials, and other actions deemed appropriate by the equity officers.

Equity officers will be appointed by the CA team and announced at the commencement of the tournament.

**Registration and Team Caps**

To register, please email Angie Tinker at tinkerar@plu.edu. Any questions can also be directed there. Registration and any changes to initial registration must be submitted by Friday March 16th, 2018. Team slots will be selected by an admissions committee that prioritizes those who have not had the opportunity to compete in the Womxn’s Round Robin before, early registration, and regional diversity.

Each school may register one team, but may submit additional teams for a waiting list. Waiting list teams may be added to the competition if the full team limit of 12 teams is not filled by Monday March 19th, 2018.

**Fees**

There will be no entry fee for this tournament. However, we encourage a suggested donation of $50 per team made payable to the Women’s Debate Institute, in order to continue the mission of promoting gender inclusivity in debate.

**Schedule**

11:30am: Check in

12:00pm: Round 1

1:45pm: Round 2

3:30pm: Round 3

5:15pm: Round 4

7:00pm: Awards Banquet

There will be no lunch break in the schedule; we encourage competitors to eat lunch before arriving. However, snacks will be provided throughout the day.