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LaPorte County, Indiana, native receives awards at Indiana State Debate Tournament

MUNCIE, Indiana—Abigail Gibbs, senior interpersonal communication major and Ball State University debate team member from Union Mills, Indiana, received fourth place in the varsity public forum speaker competition and was a semi-finalist in the varsity public forum on Feb.17 at the Indiana State Debate Tournament.

“There is a lot of teamwork involved for a debate tournament. The only individual thing about a debate tournament is speaker awards. It’s really about working with your partner and as a team. The speaker awards are always just an added bonus.”

In addition to Gibbs’ individual awards, the Ball State Debate Team, who hosted the tournament, earned their consecutive team title with an almost perfect outcome, won three of the four individual team championships and finished second in the championship round.

“My favorite part about hosting the tournament was getting to win the state title at my University. This will be my last state tournament because I’ll graduate in December. It was really nice getting that title at our home field,” Gibbs said. “Additionally, I was able to arrange for the Ball State President Geoffrey Mearns to come to the tournament and see our team in action.”

The Ball State Debate Team will finish the season with three tournaments in coming weeks.

For more information about the Ball State Speech Team, visit bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/communicationstudies/activities-and-opportunities/debate-team.