EDITORS FORUM: The Conference on Forensic Education

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The National Federation of State High School Associations will host a Conference on Forensic Education to be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, on December 27, 28, and 29, 1989. Recognizing that high schools and colleges have common concerns regarding forensic education, the National Federation hopes to encourage dialogue among educators with this conference, its papers, and its proceedings.

A primary goal of this conference will be to determine criteria for evaluating summer institutes. If recommended, the National Federation will determine criteria for evaluating summer institutes and use these criteria to establish and publish an annual list of accredited summer institutes. Once developed, students, coaches, parents, and administrators could use such a list to make more informed choices for attending summer institutes.

In addition, the following list of topics will be the focus for individual papers and small group sessions throughout the conference:

Role and Mission
Chair: Daryl Fisher, Isidore Newman School
- will develop a role and mission statement for summer institutes

Instructional Practices
Chair: Bob Branham, Bates College
- will explore such issues as the emphasis of practice over theory, the use of handbooks and squad cases, the selection of instructors, instructional time, and library access

Administration
Chair: David Rein, Clear Lake High School
- will consider such issues as student supervision, the relationship between institute and host institution, and financial accountability


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Enhancing Opportunities for Students
Chair: Brother Rene Sterner, Calvert Hall College High School
■ will consider such issues as minority recruitment, the need for different types of institutes, one-day workshops, and financial/time barriers

Accreditation
Chair: Richard Sodikow, Bronx High School of Science
■ will develop a procedure for accrediting summer institutes

The Role of Competition
Chair: Paula Nettles, Woodward Academy
■ will examine such issues as the role of institute tournaments, partner pairings, and awards

Information Dissemination Responsibility
Chair: Lee Turner, Pine Crest Preparatory School
■ will examine the responsibility of institutes to alert consumers of their goals, practices, and expectations

Evaluation and Assessment
Chair: Ann Sullivan
■ will consider how institutes will be evaluated

Recruiting by Colleges
Chair: Melissa Beall, Lincoln Southeast High School
■ will examine the concerns of high school and college coaches in recruiting practices

Mutual Interests
Chair: George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University
■ will evaluate current high school and college relationships as well as suggest new joint endeavors

Recruitment and Retention of Coaches
Chair: Steve Hunt, Lewis and Clark College
■ will examine steps the forensic community can take to insure an adequate supply of qualified coaches, including continuing education and the role of institutes in providing such education

Organization Relations
Chair: Pat Ganer, Cypress College
■ will examine the proliferation of forensic organizations and how both high schools and colleges may better engage in joint ventures
Individual Events
Chair: Barb Seng, Henry Sibley High School
■ will examine the role of individual events at summer institutes

Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Chair: Frank Sferra, J. K. Mullen High School
■ will examine the development of Lincoln-Douglas debate at high school level and will consider the role of summer institutes in developing this forensic event

If you have questions about the Conference on Forensic Education, please contact Dick Fawcett or Lynn Goodnight at the following addresses:

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