



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Bossier Parish Community College, the Division of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences, and the BPC Debate Team, we invite you to the **1th annual Eddy Shell Invitational Speech & Debate Tournament, February 20-22, 2026**, at **Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Louisiana**. The competition will feature **4 preliminary rounds of TIPDA and 6 preliminary rounds of IPDA**. Pizza will be provided midday on Saturday. We hope to offer you a fun and educational weekend of forensic competition.

In the pages that follow, you'll find all the details. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Preston Langley

PLangley@bpcc.edu

(318) 272-1132

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will not have a block of rooms reserved for the tournament, but if you have any questions concerning area hotels – we'll be glad to provide assistance.

The nearest hotels to campus are the **Holiday Inn Express Louisiana Downs** (7970 East Texas Street, 318-841-9800), the **SpringHill Suites Louisiana Downs** (8010 E. Texas Street, 318-747-7772), & **Comfort Suites Louisiana Downs** (7950 East Texas Street; 318-742-3444).

Other recommended hotels in close proximity to the campus include: **Hampton Inn Gould Drive** (1005 Gould Drive, 318-725-1112), **Hilton Garden Inn Bossier City** (2015 Old Minden Road, 318-759-1950) & the **Homewood Suites Bossier City** (2015 Old Minden Road, 318-759-1940).

DIRECTIONS

BPC is located at 6220 E. Texas St., Bossier City, LA 71111; the campus is 1.3 miles west of I-220 near Louisiana Downs. Registration will be located on the first floor of building F (our student center) at a table set-up near the main doors that open to the center of campus. A campus map is available at <https://www.bpcc.edu/about-bpcc/campus-map>

From the East: take I-20 West to Exit 26 (I-220); continue .4 miles to exit 17A (US-79/US-80). Turn right on US-79/US-80 and proceed 1.3 miles – the campus is on your left.

From the West: take I-20 East to Exit 23 (Industrial Drive). Turn left onto Industrial drive (.3 miles). Turn right onto US-79 E/US-80 E/E. Texas St. Continue 1.3 miles – the campus is on your right.

SCHEDULE

Friday, February 20

TIPDA Schedule

8:15-8:45 Registration
9:00: TIPDA Round 1
10:30: TIPDA Round 2
12:00: TIPDA Round 3
1:30: TIPDA Round 4 (early review of ballots available for all coaches)
3:15-3:30: Coaches Review
3:45: TIPDA Octafinals
5:30: TIPDA Quarterfinals
7:00: TIPDA Semi-Finals

Saturday, February 21

8:00: TIPDA Finals
8:15-9:15: Registration for Individual Debate Only Schools
9:30: IPDA Round 1
11:00: IPDA Round 2
12:30: IPDA Round 3
2:00: Lunch Break (pizza provided)
2:30: IPDA Round 4
4:00: IPDA Round 5
5:30: IPDA Round 6 (early coaches review)

Sunday, February 22

8:00-8:20: Coaches Review
8:30: IPDA Double-Oct's
10:15: IPDA Octafinals
11:45: Awards
12:30: IPDA Quarterfinals
1:45: IPDA Semifinals
3:00: IPDA Finals

EVENT INFORMATION

1. **Awards** shall be presented to **all elimination round participants** and the **top five speakers** in each division of debate. The **top three programs** shall receive awards for sweepstakes and the **top community college** will be awarded for overall sweepstakes. Additionally, the **Eddy Shell Cumulative Sweepstakes award** will be awarded to the program with the highest total points earned from this tournament combined with all previous appearances at the Eddy Shell Invitational (once a program earns the award, their point total is re-set to zero). Current standings entering the 2026 Eddy Shell Invitational are as follows:

Past Winners:

2010: LSU-Shreveport (436 pts.)	2014: Louisiana Christian U. (646 pts.)	2018: LSU-Shreveport (778 pts.)	2022: Univ. of Central Arkansas (858 pts.)
2011: Sam Houston State U. (397 pts.)	2015: LSU-Shreveport (756.5 pts.)	2019: Lee College (825 pts.)	2023: Mississippi State Univ. (983 pts.)
2012: LSU-Shreveport (553 pts.)	2016: Union University (779.5 pts.)	2020: Union University (1006 pts.)	2024: LSU-Shreveport (1128 pts.)
2013: U. of Ark.-Monticello (606 pts.)	2017: U. of Ark.-Monticello (721 pts.)	2021: East Texas Baptist Univ. (824.5pts.)	2025: Mississippi State University (1458 pts)

2. Novice, junior varsity, varsity and professional IPDA debate shall be offered in addition to Team IPDA debate. Schools shall not be limited in covered entries per event. We reserve the right to limit entries that are not covered by judges.

- A. All **IPDA debate rounds** shall follow the 5-2-6-2-3-5-3 time format with 30 minutes preparation time. Divisions offered will be Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity, and Professional. 6 preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered. See IPDA Debate.info for division eligibility requirements (or simply ask us if you need clarification).
- B. All **Team IPDA Debate** rounds shall follow the 4-2-5-2-5-2-4-2-3-4-4-3 time format with 30 minutes preparation time and follow the rules established under the International Public Debate Association. Four Preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered. Also, note that TIPDA counts as a separate tournament of eligibility toward novice/junior varsity tournament counts.
- C. If BPCC places competitors in the tournament, they will not be counted toward sweepstakes. No BPCC competitors will be judged by individuals affiliated with BPCC.

3. Points formula

- A. All of a school's top three competitors in an IPDA division and top two teams in TIPDA will count toward sweepstakes totals.
- B. Points will be awarded according to the following formula:
 - 3 points for each preliminary round win (6 points for team debate)
 - 3 points for breaking to elimination rounds (6 points for team debate)
 - 5 points for 1st speaker
 - 4 points for 2nd speaker
 - 3 points for 3rd speaker
 - 2 points for 4th speaker
 - 1 points for 5th speaker

4. Tiebreakers:

- A. For determining competitors advancing to elimination rounds for individual debate we will look first to the number of wins, second to high/low adjusted speaker points and third to the number of total speaker points (for team debate total points will be moved to the second position in the hierarchy). For determining speaker awards for individual debate we will look first to high/low adjusted speaker points and second to total speaker points (for team debate we will look first to total points, then high/low adjusted points).
- B. **Sweepstakes:** In the event of a sweepstakes tie, we will look first to the number of competitors advancing to elimination rounds, second to prelim round win percentage.

5. **Judges:** One judge covers up to 4 debaters per format (the same judge may cover 4 individual debaters and 2 debate teams); debaters may be used to judge elimination rounds of debate once eliminated from the competition. All judges are obligated to judge one round beyond the elimination of their program.

6. Tournament Ethics Statement:

- A. The behavior of all attending the Eddy Shell Invitational will be in keeping with the NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct (available at: https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/annual-convention/NCA_Convention_Resources_Anti_Harassment_Policy.pdf). We encourage all programs to review these expectations prior to entering this tournament.
- B. The Eddy Shell Invitational expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportspersonship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach, judge, or guest should address any concerns with the Tournament Director / Tabulation Room Staff.
- C. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding and final.

7. **Fees:** TIPDA entries are \$50 each and uncovered entries are an additional \$25 each. IPDA Entries are \$30 each and uncovered entries are an additional \$20 each. **Change Fees:** Changes will be accepted without charge until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Any drops or changes after that date until the start of registration will be charged a processing fee of \$5.00 per alteration; only drops will be accepted during registration and any drop occurring during registration or later will be charged a processing fee of \$15.00 per alteration.

8. **Entry Deadline:** All entries must be received by Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Entries should be made at <https://forensicstournament.net/BPCC/26>

Please make any checks payable to “BPCC Foundation” and write “Debate Team” in the “For” line