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Regents' Cup Competition Celebrates Free Speech, Civil Discourse at Arizona's Public Universities

WHAT: The inaugural Regents' Cup, a new debate competition celebrating free speech, civil discourse and democratic engagement among students from all of Arizona's public universities, will take place Nov. 16 at the University of Arizona.

This first-of-its-kind competition will feature reasoned debate during an era when free-speech issues on college campuses are at the forefront of the national conversation. Arizona's public universities are recognized as exemplars in free speech; Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona are all recognized with the highest "[green light](#)" rating from FIRE (the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education).

Civil discourse and freedom of speech are the timely topics for this debate. Specific issues include libel, slander, defamation laws, social media and more. Participating student teams will earn course credit while competing for scholarships during the Regents' Cup.

WHO: Student teams from Arizona's public universities will participate in the day-long Regents' Cup. Judges for the event include leading figures from government, industry and academia.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019
8:50 to 9:20 a.m. - Opening remarks
9:30 to 12:30 p.m. - Civil dialogue, persuasive storytelling, solutions debates
3 to 4 p.m. – Semi-final Oxford rounds
4:45 to 5:45 p.m. – Final Oxford round
6 to 7 p.m. – Winners announced during award reception

WHERE: University of Arizona
[McClelland Hall](#)
1130 E. Helen Street
Tucson, AZ

INTERVIEWS: Advance interviews are available with Regents' Cup student participants, regents and judges. Day of interviews are available before the event and during the awards ceremony.

WEBSITE: <https://www.azregents.edu/regentscup>

During the competition, Regents' Cup participants will articulate different points of view in an environment where combatants remain civil.

"Our universities are exemplars of free speech. The Regents' Cup competition provides students with an opportunity to hone debate skills that are characterized by civil discourse and reasoned argument, attributes that will serve them well throughout life," said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley. "We look forward to a successful inaugural event and wish all of our student competitors the best of luck."

"The Regents' Cup competition will demonstrate students' debate skills while exposing the teams to diverse thoughts and beliefs. We hope they take away from this experience an expanded worldview as well as empathy and respect for competitors," said ABOR Executive Director John Arnold.

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