Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the Better-Late-Than-Never Spring version of the DCI Round Robin and the inaugural Dr. Don Black National Qualifiers Tournament at Kansas City Kansas Community College March 27th and 28th, 2020.

The DCI RR tournament is open to the teams originally invited to the DCI Round Robin that was a victim of Mother Nature in January. The Dr. Don Black National Qualifiers tournament is open to teams who have qualified to a National Tournament for Spring or Sumer of 2020. We expect both to be a competitive atmosphere and a great warm up for National competition.

We are excited to host this event and look forward to hosting you and your teams in wonderful Kansas City. The invitation includes important information regarding schedule, location, procedures, and accommodations.

**Awards:** The traditional DCI Round Robin awards will be presented. Awards for the Dr. Don Black Tournament will also be presented along with speaker awards. These awards will be of high quality! Dr. Black is a distinguished Faculty Member of the KCKCC Speech Department. Dr. Black was a competitive NDT Debater and coached a CEDA National Championship team during his time as a coach. Dr. Black joined the KCKCC faculty long before I did and remains a very avid supporter of Debate and our students. Some have dubbed him “The most interesting man at KCKCC.” Stay debating my friends!!

**Procedures**: We will have 5 preliminary rounds of debate in both divisions followed by elimination rounds. Teams should come prepared to debate both sides of the 2019-2020 High School resolution. Preliminary debates will be followed by an appropriate number of elimination debates determined by the number of teams entered. Time limits will be 8 minute constructives, 3 minute cross-examination periods, 5 minute rebuttals, and 8 minutes of prep time per team.

**Entry Fees**: Budgets are tight, especially this time of year. Debating should not come at a financial burden. This is our service to the community. Cover your judging and the rest is on us!

**Extra Coaches/Observers:** If you bring extra bodies to watch rounds or help out your team, please include $10.00 per person to help offset our food/beverage costs.  Extra bodies would be anyone above and beyond 3 people per team (2 debaters and 1 coach/judge).  So if you bring 1 team, 1 coach, and 2 students to watch, the fee would be $20.00 for the 2 extras.  We will provide a lot of food over the weekend and this is just to offset costs we may not anticipate beyond the entries.

**Registration**: All entries and judge prefs will be done via tabroom.com. If you do not have a tabroom.com account, please begin the process now signing up for it, getting your students entered, and your judges. All ballots will be electronic this year. This makes it imperative ALL judges have a tabroom.com account, are linked to your program, and have a smart phone or tablet/laptop device they can enter their ballot on at the conclusion of the debate. Please do not overlook this step. If you need help navigating tabroom.com please send me an email. There are also many KS high school coaches well versed in it now who would probably be willing to help.

**Judging**: Each school needs to provide 1 qualified judge for every 2 teams or portion thereof entered. This person will be expected to judge each debate and the first elimination round and 1 round past your final teams elimination. Because of the college travel schedule and since my entire team and our assistant coaches will be in San Diego competing this weekend, the ability to hire judges is not guaranteed and schools who believe they may have trouble covering their judging should make arrangements as early as possible to secure hired judging. We will use a judge preference system**.** Each judge entered in the tournament should complete a judge philosophy statement on tabroom.com as well that teams can access prior to filling out judge preference forms.  NO registration is complete without the judge philosophy form. The deadline to get philosophies in will be 1 week prior to the tournament. Any changes after that time must be approved. Anyone not submitting a philosophy statement will not be considered as a judge meeting the entry requirements, and teams may be dropped to make room for teams on the waiting list, or charged a hired judge fee.  Please do not overlook this part of the entry. Coaches who may want to pick-up ballots but are not the full-time judge are asked to fill out a philosophy as well.  Just let me know what rounds and when you would like to judge.

**Laptops:** As in the past the tournament will allow the use of laptops in debates and abide by KSHSAA regulations regarding such.  Please inform your judges that they should expect and respect the use of laptops in debate.  If they wish to address norms they will enforce regarding viewing computers, jump driving evidence, speechdrop, etc. please have them include that in their judge philosophy statement.

**Accommodations**: There are a number of hotels in the area of the College. Rates can vary depending on location and hotel. I would encourage schools to book and request a government rate. If you do not normally do this, it can save you a lot on rooms. Given that schools are state funded you are eligible for government rates and I encourage you to take advantage of this little known perk.

Hotels in the area of the college include:

Days Inn-7721 Elizabeth Avenue-Kansas City, KS-(913)-334-3028

Comfort Inn and Suites-234 N. 78th Street-Kansas City, KS-(913)299-5555

The above 2 properties are just a few minutes from the College.

The properties below are 3 miles up State Avenue from the College and located in the Village West area. This area has become the shopping and dining mecca in KS. The Legends shopping center, dozens of restaurants, and major stores have moved KS up 14 spots among all States in tourism. I encourage you to check out the area while here.

Holiday Inn Express-1931 Prairie Crossing-Kansas City, KS-(913)328-1024

Hampton Inn-1400 Village West Parkway-Kansas City, KS-(913)328-1400

The following properties are located just off I-70 about 10 minutes from the College via I-70.

Holiday Inn Express-13031 Ridge Drive-Bonner Springs, KS-(913)721-5300

Super 8-13041 Ridge Avenue-Bonner Springs, KS-(913)721-3877

**Preliminary Schedule (subject to change)**:

**Friday March 27th**

2:00pm-2:30pm Registration/Arrival on Campus

2:30pm Opening Assembly

3:00pm RD I

5:15pm RD II (followed by a dinner break-food provided)

7:30pm RD III

**Saturday March 28th**

8am Pairings Released at Tabroom.com

8:30am RD IV

10:45am RD V

1:00pm Awards/Lunch Provided

2:00pm Semi-Finals

4:45pm Finals

**Directions**: For those of you mapping your way here, the address is:.

Kansas City Kansas Community College

7250 State Avenue

Kansas City, KS 66112

When you arrive at the campus from State Avenue follow the road north past the Lake (don’t hit our ducks please). When you arrive at the buildings the Jewell building is at the center of the campus building. You can park anywhere on campus without getting ticketed as long as it is not a spot marked reserved or for disabled drivers. Look for signs directing you to registration.

On behalf of Kansas City Kansas Community College Debate, the Division of Arts, Communication and Humanities, the offices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student and Financial Services, the College President and Board of Trustees, we look forward to seeing you in November for excellent competition.

Sincerely,

Darren Elliott

Director of Debate and Forensics/Speech Dept. Coordinator

Chair of the College Senate/Member of the Presidents Extended Cabinet/Faculty Senator/KNEA Lead Faculty Contract Negotiator

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