

*For Immediate Release*



## **Peak to Peak Charter School Students To Compete in International Debate Contest Finals in New York City Focused on Global Refugee Crisis**

*Students vie for \$10,000 grand prize*

**March 24, 2017** – Students from Peak to Peak Charter School of Lafayette will soon pack their bags – for a trip to New York City to compete as a finalist in a global debate competition that will address a very timely topic for many countries around the world: the global refugee crisis.

The Peak to Peak team has advanced to the “Elite 8” round of the Brewer Foundation/NYU International Public Policy Forum (IPPF).

By advancing, the team wins an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals, which takes place in New York City at the Harold Pratt House on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Peak to Peak will be one of eight teams competing for the right to be named the “IPPF World Champion” and a \$10,000 grand prize. The “Elite 8” teams represent schools from six U.S. states, China and Taiwan. Peak to Peak is the only team from Colorado remaining in the competition.

The IPPF is the first and only competition that gives high school students from around the world the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. The debate contest was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation as a way to promote academic achievement and celebrate speech and debate. First founded as a national contest, the competition went global in 2008.

This year, 218 teams – representing high schools in 30 countries – submitted qualifying round essays on the topic, “*Resolved: The obligation to provide safe haven for refugees should outweigh a government's right to control its borders.*”

“These students are exploring a timely and complex topic – the global refugee crisis – at an intellectual level well beyond their years,” says William A. Brewer III, partner at Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors and founder of the IPPF. “They now have an opportunity to compete in oral debates to determine who wins one of the most coveted titles in debate – IPPF World Champion.”

Teams submitted qualifying round essays affirming or negating the IPPF topic. Those essays were reviewed by a committee, which determined the top 64 teams based on the overall quality of each 2,800-word essay.

In November, the “Round of 64” teams began a single-elimination, written debate competition. Each team was assigned a position (affirmative or negative) and then volleyed papers back and forth with another team via email for the next six weeks. A panel of judges reviewed the essays and selected the winning teams. The next two rounds also took place in written form.

In the “Round of 64,” Peak to Peak advanced over The Galaxy School of Rajkot, India. In the “Top 32” round, Peak to Peak advanced over Greenwich High School of Greenwich, Connecticut. Finally, in the “Sweet 16” round, Peak to Peak advanced over Plano West Senior High School of Plano, Texas. In New York, Peak to Peak will first face North Allegheny Senior High School of Wexford, Pennsylvania.

The IPPF Finals give students the opportunity to participate in oral debates in front of some of the world's foremost experts in debate, business, law and politics. The winning team will take home the "Brewer Cup" and the \$10,000 grand prize.

**The "Elite 8" teams are:**

Beijing ENREACH, Beijing, China  
The Davidson Academy of Nevada, Reno, Nevada  
duPont Manual High School from Louisville, Kentucky  
La Cañada High School from La Cañada, California  
North Allegheny Senior High School from Wexford, Pennsylvania  
Peak to Peak Charter School from Lafayette, Colorado  
Taipei American School from Taipei, Taiwan  
Westfield Academy from West Hartford, Connecticut

**About the IPPF and the Brewer Foundation:**

The IPPF was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation (formerly Bickel & Brewer Foundation), and is now jointly administered with New York University. The program is available to all high schools around the world – public and private – for free. The IPPF is endorsed by leading forensic agencies, such as the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the International Debate Education Association, the Impact Coalition, Associated Leaders of Urban Debate Leagues, and the National Debate Coaches Association.

The Brewer Foundation is a private, non-profit organization funded by companies, individuals and the national litigation firm of Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors. With offices in New York and Dallas, the Foundation has achieved widespread recognition for its efforts to create, fund and manage a variety of educational outreach programs.

Visit the IPPF at [www.ippfdebate.com](http://www.ippfdebate.com), [www.facebook.com/ippfdebate](https://www.facebook.com/ippfdebate), or on Twitter at @IPPF1.  
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