

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

---

Archived Lindenwood Press Releases

Public Relations

---

2-18-2012

## No Argument About New Debate Program

Lindenwood University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/press\\_releases](https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/press_releases)



Part of the [Business and Corporate Communications Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Lindenwood University, "No Argument About New Debate Program" (2012). *Archived Lindenwood Press Releases*. 579.

[https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/press\\_releases/579](https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/press_releases/579)

This Press Release is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Relations at Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archived Lindenwood Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. For more information, please contact [phuffman@lindenwood.edu](mailto:phuffman@lindenwood.edu).

# LINDENWOOD

---

## No Argument About New Debate Program

February 18, 2012

Lindenwood University has formed a debate program and has selected Dr. Robert Burns to lead the team. Director of Student Life Sports Tim Canavan made the announcement on Thursday.

Burns has an extensive background in the craft of argumentation. After receiving speaking awards at Woodward Academy and reaching the elimination rounds at the prestigious Florida Blue Key Invitational in high school, he received a rare invitation to the National Debate Tournament (the national championship) as a freshman. Burns went on to coach debate at Wheaton College, before pursuing a doctorate in philosophy overseas at the University of Edinburgh. He recently returned to St. Louis, Mo. with his family to teach at Lindenwood and is excited about the opportunity to develop a world-class debate program.

“Lindenwood is already well-known for its first-class facilities and faculty,” he said. “But the university is also highly committed to fostering an environment where exceptional students can distinguish themselves in competition with other well-known academic institutions. There is no better way to demonstrate the excellence of a Lindenwood education than to challenge the best and brightest individuals at traditional debate powerhouses such as Harvard, Northwestern, and Emory...and defeat them. This is what we intend to do.”

Canavan said he is confident Dr. Burns will build a successful program.

“I like the passion and energy that Dr. Burns brings to the table,” he said. “His expertise in debate is stellar.”

The team will begin competition in the fall and plans to travel regionally and nationally in order to qualify for the national debate championship. Recruitment is already underway as Lindenwood seeks high school debaters at every level of experience and is willing to provide grant money to assist with those efforts.

For information about the Lindenwood debate program or to learn more about scholarship opportunities, contact Lauren Nystrom at (636) 949-4942.

### Press Release Contact:

Public Relations  
Lindenwood University  
publicRelations@lindenwood.edu

---

© 1827-2011 Lindenwood University • 209 S. Kingshighway • St. Charles, MO 63301

Switchboard (636) 949-2000  
Undergraduate Admissions (636) 949-4949  
Evening & Graduate Admissions (636) 949-4933