

2018 Humanities Challenge

Teams from eight area high schools will compete in the sixth annual Humanities Challenge at Bluefield State College, November 14. The event, coordinated by faculty within BSC's Humanities Department, was created in 2013 to stimulate interest in humanities and the arts among regional high school and college students.

Humanities Challenge questions feature world literatures, the fine arts, and terminology related to writing, all of which are revised annually by BSC Humanities faculty who include Drs. Michael Smith (Dean of Arts and Sciences), Jan Czarnecki (Humanities Chair and Emcee of the event), Mayra Bonet (Spanish and judge at event), Tamara Ferguson (Communications and Lunch detail at event), Bonnie Reese (Communications and Judge at event), Sean Connolly (Humanities and scorer and timekeeper at event), Alexa Schlimmer (Music), and Sudhakar R Jamkhandi (Humanities Challenge coordinator and grid updater at event). Local author and Humanities Advisory Committee member Linda Hoagland will also serve as a judge.

This year's participating three-member teams will be representing high schools from Bland, Giles, and Tazewell Counties in Virginia and McDowell and Monroe Counties in West Virginia. Dr. Sudhakar Jamkhandi, English Professor and International Initiatives Coordinator at BSC, has met on a regular basis with students from area high schools to encourage their participation in both the Humanities Challenge and in "Agora, a Celebration of Creative Expression," an annual spring semester event at Bluefield State.

"We are excited about the growing interest in the humanities at the high school and college levels," Dr. Jamkhandi observed. "This year's field of high school student teams will experience the excitement of participating in a competitive event, and they've already gained a deepening appreciation for the humanities as they prepare for the Humanities Challenge."

Every year, the winning and losing teams get to display beautifully engraved cups prepared exclusively for the Humanities Challenge by Trophies and More in Princeton.

"Henceforth," Jamkhandi added, "thanks to BSC Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Dr. Jo-Ann Robinson, the three members of the winning team will each receive \$500 tuition waivers which may be used when they attend Bluefield State College!"

Individuals and schools interested in learning more about the Humanities Challenge are encouraged to contact Dr. Jamkhandi (304-327-4136, sjamkhandi@bluefieldstate.edu).



Drs. Krotseng, Robinson, and Jamkhandi with the Richlands High School winning team: L-R: Allison Keen, Kiya Rahn, and Caleb Bales.



Above: Tazewell High School runner up team with Dr. Krotseng: Jonathan Collier, Hadrian Reeves, and Keyonna Rhodie.



Above: Dr. Krotseng with the Richlands High School winning team: L-R: Allison Keen, Caleb Bales, and Kiya Rahn.