

From: [Jan Eckert](#)
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Subject: Cothery places third in Ferris State University speech contest
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Attached is a news release regarding Kelly Cothery, a student at Ferris State University. Please direct questions to Leah Nixon at 231-591-5604.

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Kelly Cothery places third in Ferris State University speech contest

BIG RAPIDS – Kelly Cothery of Spring Lake took third place in an all-campus public speaking contest at Ferris State University last fall. The contest was hosted by the Ferris communication honor society Lambda Pi Eta and forensics honor society Pi Kappa Delta.

In light of the fall elections, contestants were invited to present a five-to eight-minute speech related to the theme “Political Engagement.” Cothery, a member of PDK and the Ferris debate team, was awarded third place with a speech on separation of religion and politics. Cothery shared \$600 in cash prizes with the first and second place finishers.

The first round began with 26 contestants competing in two preliminary rounds judged by Ferris faculty and community. The top three were invited to speak again in the final round. The finalists were judged by William Potter, dean of University College and administrative coordinator for the Political Engagement Project at Ferris; Richard Griffin, faculty coordinator for PEP; and Connie Meinholdt, coordinator for the American Democracy Project.

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