

P R E S S R E L E A S E

**BOWL IV: “THE HERD FROM WAYNE” CHARGES INTO FIRST PLACE AT THE 2017 MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL**

**Wayne Memorial High School Wins State Championship and Will Represent Michigan at the National High School Ethics Bowl**

Before Super Bowl LI, there was Ethics Bowl IV. On the last weekend in January, 13 well-coached teams from 8 regional high schools gathered on the University of Michigan campus for the fourth annual Michigan High School Ethics Bowl, to hold an ethics argument and discussion face-off for the state championship — and the opportunity to represent Michigan in the prestigious National High School Ethics Bowl. Late on the afternoon of January 29, Wayne Memorial High School emerged victorious from the two-day “collaborative competition.” The event is sponsored by local nonprofit A2Ethics in partnership with the University of Michigan Department of Philosophy Outreach Program and high schools in the Michigan Ethics Bowl League.

The Bowl competition is not designed to pit one idea against another, but rather to encourage students to consider differing viewpoints and flex their analytical skills on issues relevant to their lives as well as the wider world.

“The Michigan High School Ethics Bowl is a celebration of philosophical thinking and camaraderie. It is a chance for high school students to challenge each other and to reason together about real world ethical dilemmas in a range of fields and in different situations,” said Jeanine DeLay, president of A2Ethics.

The 2017 winners — with the team name “The Herd from Wayne”— will be traveling to the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill from April 7-9th to participate in the National High School Ethics Bowl, where Michigan state champions have established a legacy of accomplishment. In 2015, state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, reached the national quarterfinals. Last year’s Michigan title holder, Ann Arbor Greenhills High School, made it all the way to the national semifinals. “The Herd from Wayne” is motivated to do well and to live up to the spirit of Ethics Bowl. As winning team member Hannah Miller offered, “I never thought critically like I do now—our team learned so much from each other.”

The 2017 state champions will have the support of the Wayne community behind them. The Wayne-Westland Board of Education is set to recognize the Wayne Ethics Bowl program, led by Wayne Memorial High School English teacher, David Kangas, and all Bowl team members at the Board’s upcoming February meeting. In the span of two years, the Wayne Ethics Bowl program has grown to include enough students to field several more than the two teams eligible for the state competition.

Traveling with the team will be Caroline Perry, U-M graduate student and member of the U-M Dept. of Philosophy Outreach program. The Philosophy Outreach program is a graduate student-led group committed to teaching student teams the ethical theories and ideas upon which they base their arguments about the case studies in the competition. As A2Ethics president, Jeanine DeLay, comments, “The Bowl program is an excellent example of a thriving community-campus partnership. A2Ethics recruits schools, administers the program and produces Bowl Day. The League schools, and notably, outstanding teachers, introduce their students to the Bowl, providing them new opportunities to participate in an extracurricular. And the U-M graduate students are traveling teachers, sharing their knowledge and skills; they offer an intensive course in philosophy and ethical theories to the students. Without their expertise, the Bowl would not exist.”

In its fourth year, the annual competition set a new participation record, attracting 13 teams fielded by 8 regional high schools and comprised of 86 students—11 more than last year. This year’s contenders included:

* Ann Arbor Greenhills
* Ann Arbor Huron
* Ann Arbor Pioneer
* Wayne Memorial
* Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy
* Saline High School
* Ypsilanti Community High
* Washtenaw Technical Middle College

To learn more about participating schools in the 2017 competition, [please go here](http://www.a2ethics.org/presenting-2017-michigan-ethics-bowl-schools).

The 43 judges for this year’s Bowl include philosophy professors, researchers and students from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, Adrian College, Oakland University, UM-Dearborn, Siena Heights University, Michigan State University, Washtenaw Community College, Western Michigan University, the U-M Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine as well as attorneys, the executive director of Ann Arbor’s Dispute Resolution Center and the philosopher-in-residence at the U-M Center for the Study of Complex Systems. In addition, more than 30 volunteers from the local community worked in a variety of capacities, from moderators to scorekeepers.

And then there are the famous case studies on which the whole Bowl depends. This year, they include a wide array of sticky situations, including whether health care professionals should wear their scrubs outside work; the obligations of building contractors toward homeowners; and the ethical dilemmas of an education foundation deciding fair criteria for awarding scholarships. Since the competition started in 2014, Michigan’s Bowl has called on community members and individuals with Michigan affiliations to write case studies. As a result, the competition’s case studies draw on real world experiences over a range of professions—from medicine, business, sport, the military, technology and education. This year’s case studies argued by the final teams were “Informed Consent” and “Persons with Disabilities in Institutions.” To see all of the 2017 case studies, [please go here.](http://www.a2ethics.org/2017-michigan-high-school-ethics-bowl-case-studies)

The Michigan Ethics Bowl League currently includes 9 high schools from SE Michigan. **All Michigan public and nonpublic high schools are encouraged to join the League and the National Ethics Bowl movement.**

**Information on the sponsors:**

Founded in 2008, A2Ethics is an all-volunteer, nonprofit dedicated to promoting ethics and philosophy initiatives through events, educational programs and civic partnerships in local communities. Its many projects and activities include the Big Ethical Question Slam, the popular annual “Ethics Improv Competitions” in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti; and the Ethics Economy Initiative, a podcast interview series featuring ethics professionals from across Michigan.

The University of Michigan Department of Philosophy Outreach Program aims to provide tools for fostering philosophical conversations throughout the community, to widen and enrich philosophy in and outside the community.

For more information on the Michigan High School Ethics Bowl4, visit [www.a2ethics.org](http://www.a2ethics.org) or info@a2ethics.org.