



Bellaire high schooler is a 2010 NFL national champion

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(L-R) Erik Nelson, 11th place, Public Forum Debate; Louise Lu, National Champion, Congressional Debate; John Williams, semifinalist, Congressional Debate; Rohini Sigireddi, 11th place, Public Forum Debate. Photo HISD

Louise Lu, from Houston ISD's Bellaire High School, was not on the gridiron when she was named an NFL national champion a few days ago in Kansas City, Missouri. In fact, she wasn't even outdoors. But she was tops in the nation in Congressional Debate at the 2010 National Forensic League (NFL) National Tournament. Louise bested hundreds of other competitors in the category to earn the title.

Erik Nelson and Rohini Sigireddi earned 11th place in Public Forum Debate and John Williams advanced to the semifinals in Congressional Debate. The combined accomplishments of the four students, all from Bellaire High School, resulted in Bellaire Debate winning the 2010 NFL School of Excellence In Debate.

More than 3,200 students competed in the NFL national tournament, which is the world's largest academic contest. The NFL (National Forensic League) is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year.

In addition to winning the national championship, Louise brought home \$6,000 in scholarships. Erik Nelson and Rohini Sigireddi earned \$1,000 each in scholarships.

The Park Hill and North Kansas City school districts hosted the "Jazzin' it up in KC" national tournament, which drew visitors

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from across the country and as far away as China. 2010 marked the third time Kansas City served as host, after having the honor in 1983 and 1994.

More than \$200,000 in college scholarships is awarded each year to high achieving students at the tournament. National competition occurs in ten main events—Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Original Oratory, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, and Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation—as well as seven consolation and supplemental events.

For more information, visit the [NFL Web site](#) and the [Bellaire Debate web site](#).

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