

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 195**

Introduced by DeBoer, 10; Pansing Brooks, 28.

WHEREAS, Victoria Freeman of Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been named the 2021 National Speech and Debate Association James M. Copeland High School Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the National Speech and Debate Association was created as the National Forensics League in 1925 to provide recognition and support for students participating in speech and debate activities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Speech and Debate Association is to connect, support, and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate education and competition; and

WHEREAS, the National Speech and Debate Association annually honors one high school speech and debate coach who reflects outstanding leadership and commitment to speech and debate as an activity and a community with the James M. Copeland High School Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, honorees must be coaches who demonstrate leadership, exemplify honor, encourage team spirit, work with students, parents, faculty, and staff members to sustain and grow debate participation, and advocate for speech debate by showcasing students and their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Victoria was nominated for this award in recognition of her work in leading the Nebraska debate community through the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and for her efforts to make speech and debate more accessible to all students, coaches, and judges; and

WHEREAS, Victoria's work on the National Speech and Debate Association's Persons with Disabilities Coaches Caucus has helped to foster a more supportive and accepting space for debate students, judges, and coaches with disabilities and pushed the speech and debate community as a whole to better accommodate

persons with disabilities and other groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Victoria Freeman for being awarded the 2021 National Speech and Debate Association's James M. Copeland High School Coach of the Year Award.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Victoria Freeman.