

Lewis & Clark Japanese Language Program Student wins Trip to Toyama Prefecture

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In a desperately close competition, senior Asian Studies major Charlotte Jaguzny from Lewis & Clark College beat out Shion Britten, a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering at Oregon State University, to win the grand prize – a trip to Toyama Prefecture in Japan. "I had a lot of fun competing and networking with the other participants", Charlotte says.

The two faced off along with 10 other participants in total, in the 29th Annual Toyama Speech Contest for college students studying in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Charlotte gave a nuanced self-study during her speech on “Why I Study Japanese,” while Shion took a macro perspective on the transportation industry in “What We Can Do to Help Truck Drivers Who Make the World Go Around.”

Students covered topics as wide as ethnic groups in China, psychology research, ancient European mythology, anime, and a range of subjects related to nationality, citizenship, international relations and language study. They represented seven college programs in total. In addition to Lewis & Clark, participants came from Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Portland State University, Pacific University, and Mount Hood and Portland Community Colleges. Everyone spent time discussing future possibilities for the Oregon-Toyama relationship.

Judges and supporters created a significant group of viewers online, including students, four past participants of Toyama Cup, college teachers, government officials and residents in Toyama, Japan. The program is sponsored by the Toyama Prefectural Government, who sponsor the winners’ trip to Toyama later this year. Toyama is the official sister-state to the State of Oregon.

The program is operated by the Japan-America Society of Oregon, the state’s largest grassroots organization dedicated to supporting business and developing community by strengthening the US-Japan relationship. Details at <https://jaso.org/>