

Moreno Valley College student wins national oratorical award

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Moreno Valley College student Richard Wickham, 20, won first place at the Women's Christian Temperance Union National Oratorical Contest on Aug. 13 in Providence, R.I.

Wickham previously won first place at the Southern California Oratorical Contest last May, which brought a \$1,000 prize.

His speech detailed the damaging effects of alcohol and discussed treatment solutions.

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"He was a bright, hard-working, flexible student to work with," said his coach, Associate Professor of Speech Communication Diane Conrad. "I'm sure he will make the school and community proud in the future."

Wickham transferred to [California Baptist University](#) this fall with a partial speech communication scholarship and cites his time at Moreno Valley College as the foundation for his success in public speaking.

Conrad found several individuals willing to listen to his practice speech, and Wickham was particularly honored when MVC President Monte Perez listened to the speech and gave him pointers.

"It's a testament to the culture at MVC, that everyone from the president to faculty members to a custodian would give of their time to help me. My whole experience there was filled with people who cared about my success," said Wickham.

Wickham will major in speech communication and compete in speech and forensics for Cal Baptist.