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## **VENICE HIGH SCHOOL TAKES THE GOLD**

### ***Education Foundation of Sarasota County hosts Academic Olympics Competition***

Sarasota, FL (April 3, 2017) – The final match of the Academic Olympics season came to a close with Venice High School overtaking reigning champion Pine View during an intense battle on April 1, 2017. In its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the competition hosted by the Education Foundation of Sarasota County and sponsored by Dart Family Foundation ended with the Venice Indians taking home the “Culture Vulture” trophy with a final score of 228-198 over the Pine View Pythons. The Venice Chapter of the American Association of University Women and the Sarasota Branch of the Military Officers Association of America were also supporters and sponsors of the program.

Three prior rounds of competition were held January – March 2017, featuring top players from eight area high schools culminating in the finals match held April, 2017, at The Landings. At the end of the “winner takes all” event, the final standings were: Venice High School (228), Pine View School (198), Riverview High School (174), Cardinal Mooney (148), Sarasota High School (110) and Sarasota Polytechnical High School (108).

An All-Star team of participants nominated by participating coaches will represent Sarasota County in the statewide Commissioner's Academic Challenge at Walt Disney World, April 27-29, 2017. This year's team includes David Ervin (Sarasota), Mo Glickman (Pine View), Liam Hines (Venice), Caroline Hobson (Cardinal Mooney), Bailey Jordan (Venice) and Julia Rohrbacher (Riverview).

The 2017 Academic Olympic coaches were Mark Speciner for Booker High School, Ben Farmer for Cardinal Mooney High School, Robert Foust for North Port High School, Blake Wiley and Dr. Paul Dean for Pine View School, Margaret Jones for Riverview High School, Austin Dunk and Gwen Phillips for Sarasota High School, Casey Hickman for Suncoast Polytechnical High School and Steve Case for Venice High School.

### **About the Education Foundation of Sarasota County**

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County is a supporting partner that exponentially enhances the educational experiences available to the children of Sarasota County. Its mission is to strengthen the community by investing in educational opportunities for the students,

teachers and schools. The Foundation works to match donor's passions with high-impact projects and initiatives that help every child in Sarasota County rise to their full potential. It achieves this mission through scholarships, access to advanced technology, supplies needed for creativity to flourish and funds for educators' professional development. The Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers and schools.

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