

First BC Impromptu Speech Contest held

Jessica Kladerman
Staff Writer

In the spring of 2017 Broward College's BC Talks committee held its first annual college-wide Speech Contest. Four years later in late March 2021, is their first time attempting an Impromptu Speech Contest with no planning or rehearsals as the event has gone completely remote.

In this three-round contest, contestants must be able to discuss each topic appropriately, develop and plan their speech within 20 seconds and deliver it with cool confidence and clear critical thinking skills.

"One thing that is revealed, is student's language use; their vocabulary, can they articulate their ideas," said Professor Rosena Beniste about what she looks for in each contestant.

On this year's BC Talks committee are Professor Rosena Beniste, Professor Victoria Ng and Professor Laura Raymond from Central Campus, Professor Kimberley Kamuca from North Campus and Professor Cornelius Brownlee from South Campus.

For the first round, A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words,

12 contestants were introduced and asked to interpret a photo and give the moral or message of the story within the photo. Some students gave thoughtful analyses, one used half his time to plug various organizations he has been involved with over the years and another sounded like he was narrating for a commercial and ended up having a clever ending.

The round ended with an audience driven voting poll while a powerful performance of Together began by Jalila Patterson.

"The mystery is killing me because I love to know and plan and have time to think about it," said contestant Brianna Barrett about having to come up with a well thought out speech in 20 seconds with no idea what the topics will entail throughout the competition.

Eight students, including Barrett, went on to Round 2, It's Storytime. This round was a bit more fun as contestants were given the first half of a story and had 20 seconds, again, to develop and plan the rest of the story.

Some had significant twists, and others struggled to fill in

the time, though there were two or three that stood out showing clear critical thinking. Round two ended with the second audience poll and an up-tempo piano solo by Emmanuel David.

Camille Plummer, James Espada and 14-year-old Joshua Ostergaard finally made it to the third and final round, Speak Your Mind on Social Justice. In this round, each contestant was given a topic of social or political injustice and must explain their knowledge and stand on the topic, as well as explain how it may directly or indirectly affect them.

"What's your stand? What are you going to say to back it up? And why is what you're saying important?" asked Barrett as she went through the questions one must ask themselves when discussing topics about social and political injustice.

Ostergaard was given the topic of the Electoral College and transparently shared he was not familiar with the logistics of the topic and was gracefully given a new topic to which he made a comeback with. Espada was given the topic of political lobbying and



Photo Courtesy of clipart-library.com

Plummer spoke on workplace harassment.

When the final voting poll began student, Katherine Manarang gave a moving spoken word performance called The Grain of Rice, sharing her experience being a young Asian-American in today's society.

Plummer's performance won over the audience and guaranteed her the 1st place prize of a \$50 Barnes and Nobles gift

card.

Young Ostergaard's recovery landed him in 2nd place receiving a \$25 Barnes and Nobles gift card, and Espada won 3rd place receiving a Broward College "swag bag."

kladjl@mail.broward.edu

Black History Month: Knowledge is Power Trivia Contest

Leonardo Lopez
Contributing Writer

Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States, officially recognized February as Black History Month in 1976. Since then, the month has been dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the contributions and accomplishments that African Americans have had on the nation. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the current practice of social distancing, Broward College has found a creative way to provide an educational and entertaining way to celebrate Black History.

Continuing BC's celebration of Black History Month, Student Life organized the Black History Month: Knowledge is Power Trivia Contest, which was virtually held on Feb. 16.

Hosted by Tiffany Irving, the Student Life coordinator at the South Campus, the trivia event was presented in a Kahoot! Format.

"My goal was to pick a [Kahoot quiz] with questions that I hoped students could answer... I liked that [this Kahoot!] gave an explanation after it asked the question. The students could learn from it and could see [graphics]," Irving said about selecting the quiz.

During the event, 33 BC students put their knowledge of Black History to the test. The trivia game featured 42 questions which had topics that ranged from sports, literature, history and music. The



One of the winners of the contest: Lizette Powell, | Photo Courtesy of BC

top three students who received the highest points would then go on to win their choice of either one of two paintings, a framed poster of rapper Nipsey Hussle or Student Life items (t-shirts, bottles, etc.).

"Throughout February, I wanted to have programs for Black History Month that were fun, but they also provided history, knowledge and touched on social justice," Irving said. "[With this trivia contest], I hope that students got to test their knowledge and if they didn't know an answer, they would learn about that particular [topic] and are able to capture and retain [the information]," she

added.

Lizette Powell, senior student and secretary of the Broward College Paralegal Eagles Club, heard that BC was hosting Black History events from her fellow officers.

"I was so interested to learn more about it. I would love to learn more about my heritage. When I found out there was also going to be a trivia contest, I wanted to see how much I knew about my history," she said.

Earning her title as the second-place victor, Powell said that she really enjoyed discovering that she knew more about Black History Month than she had previously



Lizette Powell, | Photo Courtesy of BC

anticipated.

"I believe that Black History is valuable information to learn because it will always be a part of the History of this country... in our history, we have a culture filled with love and hope. For [African Americans], when there was a dream that [they] wanted [to fulfill], they would always work hard to make sure that those dream could come true...People need to know all of the struggles [African Americans] had to face in trying to [fulfill] their dreams," said Powell.

Though Broward College has presented similar events that were held virtually in the past such as

the comedy and trivia contest last August, this is the first to do so on the topic of Black History Month. The college also presented another virtual competition in honor of Women's History Month called: Women's History Month: Leading Ladies trivia contest.

lopel26@mail.broward.edu