



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## College students at Spelman College qualify for national Ethics Bowl competition

Atlanta, GA. (Feb.23, 2026)— Students at Spelman College recently qualified for the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (APPE IEB)® national championship, which will be held March 7th and 8th in St. Louis.

The team first competed on Oct. 31, 2025 at the Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl Competition at Jacksonville, FL.

During the day-long event they discussed some of today's most pressing ethical issues: authenticity and inclusion in films, factory farming, citizenship, overtourism, organ donation and burial wishes, and more.

At the national championship, they will be one of 36 teams competing against their peers using a set of cases that are drawn from real-life ethical challenges in education, business, life, and politics. Teams participating in the APPE IEB® will be judged not by their answers to such questions, but by their ability to identify and analyze the ethical dimensions of each case in a clear, focused, and thoughtful manner and with an appreciation for varied perspectives.

The team is coached by Dr. Michelle Hite and Prof. Ariana Benson and team members include Gabrielle Hurd C'2029, Gabrielle Harris C'2026, Jayda Hendrickson C'2026, Zoe

Shepard C'2026 and Mackenzie Hickson C'2026. Spelman College competed for the first time at the Southeast Competition and then qualified for the finals.

This year's nationally qualifying teams advanced from 14 Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl regionals that took place last fall from California to the Chesapeake Bay. More than 175 universities and colleges and 200 teams participated.

Unlike debate, in Ethics Bowl, teams are not assigned 'pro' and 'con' sides of an ethical issue. Each team's goal is to identify the various ethical considerations, analyze the importance of those, and engage in civil discourse with another team that expands the conversation based on its position. Like in life, the cases are complex, difficult to resolve, and sometimes polarizing. Our goal with the ethics bowl is to help students see the value of continuing to engage with others despite difference, to understand more about views that differ from their own, and to help students think of collaborative solutions to solve societal problems.

The 36 qualifying teams are:

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio  
Cameron University – Lawton, Oklahoma  
Colorado School of Mines – Golden, Colorado  
DePauw University – Greencastle, Indiana  
Georgia Southern University – Statesboro, Georgia  
Georgia Institute of Technology – Atlanta, Georgia  
Harvard University – Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Macalester College – Saint Paul, Minnesota  
Northwestern University – Evanston, Illinois  
Occidental College – Los Angeles, California  
Ohio Northern University – Ada, Ohio  
Seattle University – Seattle, Washington  
Snow College – Ephraim, Utah  
Spelman College – Atlanta, Georgia  
St. Mary's College of Maryland – St. Mary's City, Maryland  
Stanford University – Stanford, California  
United States Military Academy – West Point, New York  
University of California, Santa Barbara – Santa Barbara, California  
University of California, Santa Cruz – Santa Cruz, California  
University of Central Arkansas – Conway, Arkansas  
University of Central Florida – Orlando, Florida  
University of Florida – Gainesville, Florida  
University of Houston – Houston, Texas  
University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, Maryland  
University of Missouri – Columbia, Missouri  
University of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

University of Richmond – Richmond, Virginia  
Utah State University – Logan, Utah  
Utah Valley University – Orem, Utah  
Washington and Lee University – Lexington, Virginia  
Whitworth University – Spokane, Washington  
William & Mary – Williamsburg, Virginia  
Yale University – New Haven, Connecticut  
Youngstown State University – Youngstown, Ohio

The national competition is held in conjunction with the annual international conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE). APPE is an international non-profit membership organization founded in 1991 dedicated to advancing scholarship, education, and practice in practical and professional ethics.

**About the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics**

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) is an international nonprofit membership organization that supports research, training, and education in practical and professional ethics. It was founded in 1991 to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching among educators and practitioners. APPE hosts an annual conference and the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl® each February. Since 2017 APPE has been housed at the Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Learn more at [www.appe-ethics.org](http://www.appe-ethics.org).