



STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR

April 2026

Dear Contestants,

As the 47th governor of Arkansas, I am pleased to welcome you to the 17th Annual Ralph Vines II Public Speaking Contest. Clear and effective communication builds confidence, inspires others, and strengthens our communities.

Reaching this stage reflects your commitment and willingness to challenge yourself. These qualities will serve you well far beyond today's competition. I commend each of you for your hard work and wish you success as you compete for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Grand Prizes.

On behalf of the State of Arkansas, I extend my best wishes for a successful competition and continued achievement in your academic and personal pursuits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Sanders".

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas