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**For immediate release**

## **ST. PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL WINS INAUGURAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL**

**Chapel Hill, N.C.** – St. Petersburg (Fla.) High School won the inaugural National High School Ethics Bowl held in Chapel Hill, N.C. on April 19-20, 2013. St. Petersburg defeated the Triangle Area (N.C.) Homeschool team in the final round, 146-144. Farmingdale (N.Y.) High School and East Chapel Hill (N.C.) High School were the other semifinalists. Sixteen teams from ten states and the District of Columbia participated in the two-day event, hosted by the Parr Center for Ethics at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Ethics Bowl is a collaborative yet competitive event that brings students together to discuss ethical dilemmas they have studied. Their challenge is to offer thoughtful, reasonable, perceptive analyses while maintaining a tone of civil discourse, so often absent from the national conversation. Issues discussed in the bowl included such hot-button subjects as:

- “Is it ethical for the U.S. government to use unmanned drones to kill people overseas?”
- “What should happen to the children of illegal immigrants?”
- “Is the hacking of a public figure’s email a public good or an invasion of privacy?”

In Ethics Bowl, students are not assigned opposing views but win by showing that they have thought more carefully, deeply, and perceptively about the cases in question. The event encourages and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking skills, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for diverse points of view. It also prepares students for college-level work. After participating, many students claim a greater understanding of how complex ethical issues can be, and gain an appreciation for the importance of acknowledging diverse points of view. A special award – the Bob Ladenson Spirit of the Ethics Bowl Award, given to the team that best embodies these goals – was won by Middlesex County Academy from New Jersey.

“Too often, discourse in the United States feels like a rotating set of talking heads shouting, insulting, and refusing to listen to each other,” said Parr Center Director Jan Boxill. “We don’t think it has to be this way. Ethics Bowl is about encouraging and rewarding depth of thought – not volume or rhetoric. Successful students show that they have thought about issues deeply, considering all points of view, and being able to back up their ultimate position with reason. Almost necessarily, this leads to a respectful and encouraging discussion.”

The NHSEB is supported by generous grants from GlaxoSmithKline, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Squire Family Foundation, and the Teagle Foundation.

The event, profiled in *The New York Times*, is modeled on the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, which takes place under the aegis of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. The IEB was created by Dr. Robert Ladenson.

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