The Passaic County Community College Debate Team had its finest showing to date in two of three debates held this fall by the Public Forum Debate League.

On October 28, Terrence Foster became the first debater in PCCC history to win Best Overall Speaker in the Extemporaneous Division. Terrence and Jasmine H. Bodie also won the Second Place team award in the Extemporaneous Division, a form of competition that is a research-based policy debate.

“This is the highest finish ever for a PCCC team,” said Professor Brian Lorio, PCCC’s Debate Team advisor who promoted his students to the challenging Extemporaneous contest for the first time last spring, a result of their strong development in argumentation skills.

Held at Fairleigh-Dickinson University in Hackensack, NJ, the October 28 debate was the second in a series of three events sponsored by the PFD League. Seven area colleges argued the (pre-Election Day) topic: Resolved: “Re-Electing Barack Obama as President of the United States Would Be More Beneficial to the Country Than Electing Mitt Romney.”

A post-election version of the topic was debated again at the final competition held November 18 at SUNY Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York. In the Extemporaneous Division, Terrence took First Place Overall in the team contest and Second Place Overall Speaker.

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PCCC debaters also competed in the Impromptu Division, where students have just 10 minutes to prepare their arguments.

Princess Obong and Earl Grant competed in this division in November while Bianka P. Marte and Daniela Huertas, participating for the first time, did so in October.

“In the three semesters that PCCC has actively participated in the Public Forum Debate League, our team has steadily improved its performance over each previous debate,” said Professor Lorio.

“The amount of time that these students spend on their activity is a testament to their work ethic and the support of the PCCC academic community.”

Members of the PCCC Debate Team at the Public Forum Debate League Competition, October 28, 2012.

(clockwise from bottom left) Ashley Fisher, Jasmine Bodie, Bianka Marte, Terrence Foster, Daniela Huertas, Earl Grant.

To inquire about the PCCC Debate Team: E-mail Professor Brian Lorio

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