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## **Colorado Springs resident is regional finalist in the world's largest speech contest** **Gregory Williams rises above a pool of nearly 200 contestants**

**Denver, Colo., May 15, 2019** – Gregory Williams of Colorado Springs, Colorado, outshined nearly 200 contestants to win the district-level competition of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. Williams advances to the regional round of the contest, vying for one of the semifinal spots in the [World Championship of Public Speaking](#)® to be held at the Toastmasters International Convention on Saturday, August 24, in Denver, Colorado.

Williams, a member of Pikes Peak Toastmasters Club, <https://3044.toastmastersclubs.org/>, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, surpassed fierce competition to win over the judges with his speech, "Yes You Can!" The speech touched on the themes of overcoming adversity, bravery, passion and confidence, as well as a determination to succeed no matter the odds.

Williams will compete with other winners from districts around the world who advanced to the 2019 regional round after a six-month process of elimination through club, area, division and district speech competitions. Their 5- to 7-minute speeches were judged on content, organization, format and style.

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest began in 1938 and is the world's largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 141 countries. It culminates with the popular World Championship of Public Speaking held annually at the organization's [International Convention](#).

To interview Williams, learn more about the contest or Toastmasters club membership, contact Trixie Hunter-Merrill, (402) 575-1269. Follow [@Toastmasters](#) International on Twitter to track Williams' progress.

### **About District 26**

District 26 is one of 117 districts, comprised of nearly 200 clubs. To learn more about District 26, please visit: [www.d26toastmasters.org](http://www.d26toastmasters.org)

### **About Toastmasters International**

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 352,000 in more than 16,400 clubs in 141 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Follow [@Toastmasters](#) on Twitter.

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