

Nassau County schools participate in the 2024 Constitution Bowl — from clockwise, West Nassau High School, Fernandina Beach High School, Yulee High School Home Education and Hilliard High School.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY CHANDLER/NEWS-LEADER



Constitution Bowl showcases Nassau smarts

For the News-Leader

University of US, a feeder program to the Constitution Bowl, had more than 70 students pass this year's final exam — a first in program history. Many of the students will compete in the 2025 Constitution Bowl.

The Constitution Bowl, a U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation (USCSF) program, is a scholastic competition among teams from all four Nassau County high schools and a home educated team. \$13,000 in scholarships will be awarded at the annual event held April 7 at Wildlight Elementary Cafetorium; doors open at 6 p.m.

This year's event is sponsored by Chesapeake Utilities, Rayonier, VyStar Credit Union, Bill and Anne Gower, Tom Henrichs, Ron Blum and Nat Phillips.

Similar to the old "College Bowl" format, students compete for thousands of dollars in scholarship awards by answering questions about the Founders, Constitution, Amendments and key Supreme Court decisions.

Yulee High School has dominated the Constitution Bowl over the past three years, leading the five-team competition wire-to-wire to claim the title in 2024.

Since the first U.S. Constitution Bowl in 2019, the competitive event occurs after participating students complete USCSF's University of US after-school education program.

"A small group of us got together almost 10 years ago to form the U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation and the University of US. We had a mission to educate high school students and the community about the Constitution and our heri-



Left, Bradley Bean served as master of ceremonies for Constitution Bowl 2024. Right, Howard Pines, dean of the University of US, speaks to the students and attendees of Constitution Bowl 2024.

tage," said Howard Pines, dean of the University of US. "Now with nine years of University of US classes behind us, we have given out over \$300,000 in scholarships and awards. This year we will give out over \$50,000 in scholarships and awards."

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation

awards each member of the winning team a \$2,000 scholarship for the college of their choice. The 2024 Yulee team was coached by Thomas Blake, and team members included Jacob Clayton, Reagan Jeffers, Lyla Johnson and Richard Guo.

All members of the second-place team receive



a \$1,000 scholarship each year. The 2024 second-place home educated team included Amelia Burbo, Amelia Hawkes, Eva Hawkes and Lauren Walters and was coached by Alyssa Burbo.

Third-place team members are awarded a \$250 scholarship each. The 2024 third-place West Nassau

team included Amy Cullen, Justin Housend, Hailey Santos and Brody Singley and was coached by Caleb Bryan.

"I am so grateful to the Constitution Bowl and the entire USCSF board giving over \$300,000 in scholarships to our students," said Superintendent of Nassau County Schools Kathy

Burns. "More importantly, what it does academically, it's like an enrichment to what's already going on in our schools."

This year, the only way to watch the Constitution Bowl is to attend the event live at 6 p.m., April 7 at the Wildlight Elementary Auditorium.

About USCSF

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation is a nonprofit educational and scholarship organization dedicated to increasing knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Since 2016, USCSF educational programs have delivered scholarships and awards to high school juniors and seniors in Nassau County. Visit www.uscsf.net for more information, or contact via email at info@uscsf.net.



Group shot of all 2024 Constitution Bowl participants, including event master of ceremonies, Bradley Bean, center.