



Lambda Alumni Chapter Distinguished Alumni Award

Tyler Watkins
BA Communication '15, MA '17

Tyler Watkins, BA Communication '15, MA '17, is the assistant director of Forensics at George Mason University, where he coaches and mentors students in intercollegiate speech and debate.

Through his coaching and mentorship, Watkins has supported more than 10 national champions and 50+ national public speaking finalists, contributing to four national runner-up team finishes in the past five years. His work emphasizes storytelling and advocacy, with a focus on mental health, racial equity, immigration, and supporting LGBTQ+ students and communities. Many of these competitive successes have been driven by student performances that engage with these causes, helping bring complex, lived experiences to national stages across the country.

Watkins is also an active contributor to the broader communication community, presenting multiple panels at the National Communication Association on disability, accessibility, and inclusive practices in forensics, with a focus on creating more equitable and affirming environments for all students.