



ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF BUSINESS WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC. (IFBW)

Young Professional/Career Professional Speak-Off Benefits to the Candidate

Opportunities for Personal and Professional Development

- Participation in the Young Professional/Career Professional Speak-Off competition provides opportunities to practice public speaking, interviewing, group interaction, and resume writing.
- The Speak-Off representatives who attend the IFBW annual conference are provided additional opportunities for personal and professional development through networking, informative workshops, presentations and interactive group activities with women from all over the state.

Opportunities for Networking

- Some local Speak-Off programs include social events or roundtable-type discussions designed to encourage candidates to meet one another, get acquainted with IFBW members, and learn more about the benefits of IFBW. Networking is a powerful way a career woman/man can build on her/his resume and contacts.

Opportunities to Learn About the Issues

- Participation in the Speak-Off program offers the opportunity for candidates to learn more about issues of concern to working women, become familiar with the mission and vision of IFBW, acquire knowledge about state legislative platforms and other IFBW advocacy issues, and interact with and engage in dialogue with IFBW members.

Opportunities for Visibility

- Speak-Off participants can receive enhanced visibility through media and publicity in the community and through their employers. Successful Speak-Off programs incorporate publicity and press in promoting the program and the candidates. To maximize publicity and promote the program, local program chairs may send news releases to participants' hometown newspapers and to radio and television stations.

Opportunities to Make a Difference

- A Speak-Off candidate can choose to become an IFBW member, part of a statewide network dedicated to achieving equity for working women. She/he can enjoy the unique benefits of membership. She/he can mentor and be mentored. She/he can feel the strength of blending her/his voice with others as the leading advocate for working women.

Opportunity to know what it means to be supported Professionally, Politically, & Personally!