



## **OPTIS Group Chairman & CEO – Philip R. Foss, is named to National Invitational Tournament of Champions (NITOC), judging panel.**

### **“Building Tomorrows Leaders”**

Colorado Springs, Colo., May 29, 2012 – Academic speech and debate has been a valuable endeavor since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has grown so popular among educators that this year's final competition taking place June 5-9 at Focus on the Family has become the largest tournament in its 16 year history.

Participants from 26 states will gather for a week of competition at the National Invitational Tournament of Champions (NITOC), the last tournament of the school year. Stoa, a California-based organization that runs the tournament, consists of 1,100 families and nearly 2,000 students.

Students compete in 11 speech events and two types of debate. The speech events include categories of literature interpretation, oratory, and impromptu. One format of debate, Team-Policy, consists of two-person teams arguing policy topics. The second is a value-based, one-on-one format called Lincoln-Douglas, named after the famous 19th century debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

Chris Jeub, a resident of Monument and the superintendent of the tournament, believes forensics is the best form of education. "I see speech and debate as anything but 'extra' curricular," Jeub says. "All students should be masters at thinking and speaking."

The tournament will hold 599 students, many competing in more than one event. Students were invited based on their success in at least two earlier competitions. The requirement needed to receive a speech invitation included placing in the top 40 percent; a winning record was required for an invitation in debate.

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*OPTIS Group, LLC is an innovative consulting company that specializes in results-oriented leadership for complex business challenges held within the financial sector, with an emphasis on mortgage banking growth management.*

*We are relentlessly focused on your success. Our seasoned team has both the hard and soft skills to execute successfully. We know how to seamlessly integrate into each client's unique fabric, enabling us to perform efficiently and avoid an "us versus them" dynamic.*



**Philip R. Foss – Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Director of National Strategic Alliances**

As the founder, Chairman and CEO of OPTIS Group, LLC. Philip R. Foss is responsible for running all facets of the business. Phil has a proven executive management track record with over 23 years of mortgage banking origination & management experience. Mr. Foss focuses on enterprise-level business model construction and deployment throughout the country's mid-size companies, leading the marketing and customer strategy practice, and directing sales within customer service go-to-market issues helping our client partners realize higher return-on-market and CRM investments.

Prior to founding OPTIS Group, LLC. Phil had been on both sides of mortgage banking origination and management with Banc One Mortgage & Washington Mutual Mortgage allowing for a comprehensive view and balanced approach to business development. Mr. Foss has been published in various industry specific periodicals as well as in the Denver Business Journal, Seattle Post Intelligencer, and the Kansas City Star, focusing on topics ranging from "Change Management", "Strategic Growth Management", "Sales Platform Training" and a four part "2008 Leadership Series".

Phil holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver and obtained his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Strategic Management Planning from the University of Washington, Seattle Washington.

OPTIS Group, LLC is headquartered in picturesque Colorado Springs Colorado at the foot of Pikes Peak, where Phil enjoys his two children, plays golf at high altitude, and participates as a volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol, Winter Park CO.