

# Denver Urban Debate League



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For Immediate Release

## Denver Urban Debate League Students Take Top Honors at National Championship in Chicago

The **Denver Urban Debate League (DUDL) Advisory Board** and **Denver Public Schools (DPS)** are proud to announce the results of the **Chase Urban Debate National Championships on April 23-27 at Northwestern University Law School in Chicago**. **Christian Ulrickson and Byron Martinez-Moore of Thomas Jefferson High School (Coached by Wauneta Vann) and, Reuben Aguirre and Humberto Munoz of West High School (Coached by Feliz Armijo)** competed against debaters from 18 cities in this prestigious competition. These outstanding students qualified for the tournament by winning First and Second Place honors at the Denver Urban Debate League 2008-09 City Championships, held at The University of Denver Sturm College of Law in March.

Both teams delivered an impressive performance in preliminary rounds. **Aguirre and Munoz, won 4 of 6 preliminary debate rounds, qualifying for a coveted position in Octo-Finals in the Open (Varsity) division**. A team from University High School in New Jersey defeated the Denver team in Octo-Finals. Reuben and Humberto then went on to elimination rounds in the "First-Year Break-Out" division for novice debaters coming from brand-new leagues (St. Louis, Bay Area, Houston, Boston, Los Angeles, Memphis) and **tied for third place "First-Year Team" in the Nation**.

Approximately 80 outstanding debaters, accompanied by accomplished coaches and dedicated urban debate and public school administrators, took part in the exciting weekend of spirited competition and fun-filled community and cultural experiences. Participants visited the DuSable Museum of African American History and toured the world-renowned Art Institute of Chicago. Coaches, students, and administrators from Denver also took part in a series of conferences, college and career information sessions, and professional development meetings with their colleagues from around the nation.

The extraordinary performance of DUDL's debaters at this national competition marks the end of the first year of the Denver Urban Debate League's programming in our community. **DUDL was one of only two first-year leagues to send a team to Octo-Finals**, quite an accomplishment at this high-level competition. The Denver UDL is busy planning for the 2009-10 debate season and currently accepting applications for new member schools. The policy debate topic for next year, selected by the National Forensic League and debated by all high schools in the nation is *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States*.

For more information about the Denver Urban Debate League, please contact Jessica Clark by calling 720.878.2776, or e-mail Jessica at [JessicaClark@urbandebate.org](mailto:JessicaClark@urbandebate.org). Also visit [www.denverdebate.org](http://www.denverdebate.org)

