

Denver Urban Debate League



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For Immediate Release

The Qwest Debate Classic 2009

Denver UDL partners with Qwest Communications for upcoming competition at West High School

The Denver Urban Debate League (DUDL) Advisory Board and Denver Public Schools (DPS) are proud to announce the fifth DUDL debate tournament of the 2008-09 school year: **The Qwest Debate Classic 2009 at West High School on February 20-21, 2009**. Competition will take place from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Friday, and 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM on Saturday. 40+ students are expected to participate. The high schools participating in The Qwest Classic are: George Washington, Manual, Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, Thomas Jefferson, and West.

The Denver UDL has collaborated with several local partners during its launch year to provide opportunities for competitive debate to Denver's urban youth. Law firms such as Baker Hostetler, Benezra Culver, Kilmer Lane Newman, and Bartlit Beck have all sponsored competitions in the 2008-09 school year, providing funding and volunteers to enable DUDL to provide programming at no cost to DPS students. Competitive debate has traditionally been a prime avenue for suburban and private school students to develop academic and leadership skills that can be critical for success in high school, college, and beyond. Yet urban students, particularly in underserved communities, typically do not have access to debate training and opportunities. The DUDL Advisory Board and DPS are working closely with local sponsors to bridge this gap, which will expand its reach and impact in coming years.

In addition to the financial support provided by Qwest, the company is also providing 20+ volunteers to serve as mentors and debate judges at the tournament. This marks the beginning of a relationship between Qwest and the Denver UDL that goes well beyond the naming of this significant event in the DUDL Season Calendar. DUDL is involving Qwest in the actual work of the Denver Urban Debate League, providing a variety of opportunities for Qwest employees to fill volunteer roles at the tournament. The impact of involving professional mentors from the community with DUDL students has far reaching impacts. Evidence shows that these informal venues for imparting information about college admissions, scholarship and payment, and career advice can be more effective than formal "orientation" meetings or presentations toward achieving common objectives of "college bridge" programming aimed at less-advantaged youth.

The UDL teams will debate the 2008-09 National High School Policy Debate Resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States. Debaters will take part in six preliminary rounds, before advancing to elimination rounds on Saturday afternoon.

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. Also visit www.urbandebate.org