

Denver Urban Debate League



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For Immediate Release

Denver Urban Debate League Announces Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell Season Opener

DUDL Kicks-Off Second Year of Programming with the First Competition of the Season at Manual High School, sponsored by Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP

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The Denver Urban Debate League (DUDL) Advisory Board and Denver Public Schools (DPS) are proud to announce the beginning of the 2009-10 debate season with **The Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell Season Opener**. The competition will be held at **Manual High School on Saturday, October 17th**. Competition will take place from **9:30 AM – 7:00 PM** on Saturday. The debates are open to the public. At least 40 students are expected to compete in two divisions: Novice and Varsity. The high schools participating in The Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell Season Opener include **Academy of Urban Learning, Manual, Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, Montbello, Thomas Jefferson, and West**.

The UDL teams will debate the 2009-10 National High School Policy Debate Resolution: *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States*. Debaters will take part in four debate rounds, arguing both the affirmative and negative side of the resolution. The tournament will conclude with an awards ceremony at 7:30 PM. Representatives from the **National Association for Urban Debate Leagues** will be in attendance, including **Scott Deatherage**, former Director of Debate at Northwestern University. Deatherage's teams won the National Debate Tournament championship seven times and he was voted the "coach of the decade" for the 1990s by his peers.

Since our launch in August of 2008, DUDL has experienced remarkable success giving Denver high school students the opportunity to learn and achieve through debate. Last season, we built a network of over 50 high school students participating in rigorous academic debate for the first time ever. In April the top four debaters (top two two-person teams based on the City Championship results) traveled to Chicago to represent the DUDL at the Chase Urban Debate National Championship. Both teams delivered an impressive performance in preliminary rounds. One of the teams, from West High School, won four of six preliminary debate rounds, qualifying for a coveted position in Octo-Finals in the Open (Varsity) division. The debaters from West then went on to elimination rounds in the "First-Year Break-Out" division for novice debaters coming from brand-new leagues tied for third place "First-Year Team" in the Nation.

In the 2009-10 school year, DUDL is expanding to serve six to eight schools and double our participation numbers. The DUDL, like all UDLs nationwide, serves students who face incredible odds at school and at home as they work to graduate from high school and go on to college. Nationally, close to 100% of urban debaters graduate from high school and 75% go on to college. The DUDL is continuing this trend. The DUDL's mission is to promote inclusiveness, citizenship and education equity by making debate available to every student in the Denver metro area. Debate changes the lives of urban students and enriches the communities in which they live. Denver is the 26th city to join this national social justice movement.

The DUDL is deeply grateful to our corporate and community sponsors, such as Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP, who make our programming possible at no cost to the students we serve, or to their families. 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 and www.denverdebate.org and visit our fan page on Facebook.

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