

2019- 2020 DUDL Student Achievement Awards

Policy Debate

Novice Speaker Awards

3rd place speaker: West Early College Kikai Edwards

2nd place speaker Rangeview Daniel Torres

1st place speaker: Denver Center for International Studies Fahiima Abdullahi

Varsity Speaker Awards (top 3)

3rd place speaker: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College Dahn Vu

2nd place speaker: Denver Center for International Studies Owen Schalk

1st place speaker: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College Josh Duran

Novice Teams

Novice 2nd place: Rangeview Jamie Hatten and Daniel Torres

Novice 1st place: Denver Center for International Studies Fahiima Abdullahi and Negma Abdullah

Varsity Teams

Varsity 2nd place: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College Dahn Vu and Josh Duran

Varsity 1st place: Denver Center for International Studies Reyna Esquibel and Owen Schalk

Student Congress

3rd place: Noel Community Arts School Alexis Gainous

2nd place: Mapleton Alexis Maestas

1st place:Hinkley April Gonzalez

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Impromptu

3rd place: Vista Peak Aishwarya Mishra

2nd place: Noel Community Arts School Alexis Gainous

1st place: Hinkley April Gonzalez

This year, in light of the Covid crisis, the following three categories were decided based on video submissions from our students. The winners of the virtual competition in Poetry, Drama, and Oratory are as follows

Poetry

Joslyn Stallaman VP

Drama

Autumn Wamsley Gateway

Oratory

Diego Simental Mapleton

Don and Joyce Culver Award

The Don and Joyce Culver Award which is awarded in honor of DUDL Founding Board of Directors member John Culver's parents. It is given to an administrator, volunteer, parent, or other supporter of the league who has shown a special dedication to our students, and been a leader in our community.

This year's Don and Joyce Culver Award goes to a volunteer judge who brings years of experience in debate to our league, Catherine Combe has been a supporter of the DUDL since 2017, and she is a wonderful judge, mentor, and cheerleader for the organization. This season, she donated over 25 hours of her time to serve as a volunteer judge. Her flexibility and kindness with students does not go unnoticed. Catherine's passion for speech and debate is evident in everything she does. We are very proud of her for her continued dedication to the activity and to our League. Congratulations to Catherine Combe.

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DUDL Rising Star Award.

The Rising Star Award is given to a debater who demonstrates tremendous potential in urban debate, academic excellence, and leadership; in their school, urban debate league, and community. To be eligible for nomination, the debater must be a debater who is a Freshman or Sophomore in high school and competed in the novice or open division at least two times during the 2019-20 Season. They must also have demonstrated academic excellence and/or awesome debate related accomplishments outside of the competition setting, in addition to demonstrating commitment to continued growth in debate.

Congratulations to: Daniel Torres Diaz from Rangeview High School. Daniel is a young debater who, although did not compete in any tournaments as a freshman, he attended many gearing up for his debut as a Rangeview debater! This year he has had immense success as a novice, making it to the final round of every tournament he has been to. His coach, Anna, says that he is always the first to practice and the last one to leave. She is very impressed by his motivation and dedication to improving his skills.

DUDL Debater of the Year.

The Denver Urban Debate League Debater of the Year which is a debater who demonstrates commitment, dedication, and excellence in debate, and in school. To be eligible the student must be a debater who is a Junior or Senior in high school and competed in the varsity division at least two times during the 2019-20 Season.

Congratulations to Reyna Esquibel from Denver Center for International Studies. Despite the plethora of other clubs, activities and obligations she has, Reyna has always been an exemplary member of the DUDL and a reliable leader, serving as the peerless Varsity Captain for the past three years, and as the Novice Captain before that. She is a fierce competitor and has had a spectacularly successful career in DUDL, due to her devotion, knowledge and passion for public policy. She and her partner have qualified for the national tournament three years in a row. She has had great success in the league and has demonstrated immense maturity and strength.

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DUDL Speaker of the Year Award

DUDL offers a speech component that includes oratory, poetry, drama, impromptu and student congress. The DUDL Speaker of the Year Award, is given to a student who excels in these competition formats, as well as being a leader at their school and in the league.

Congratulations to Joslyn Stallman from Vista Peak Preparatory. As you have just watched her piece, you can see how talented she is. Joslyn is known as a speech butterfly. She has explored almost all of our speech events, not only impromptu, oratory, poetry, but also big questions and policy debate. She always brings a great attitude to the activity, and serves as a role model for those around her. She is the speech captain at Vista Peak, and always tries very hard to improve her writing and speaking skills. Her coach says that she is always willing to help others while also working on refining her own speaking skills. She conducts herself with kindness and understanding. As a senior, she will leave Vista Peak this year in a better place than she found it.

DUDL Congressperson of the Year Award

Student Congress permits students to participate in a mock legislative session using parliamentary procedure. Legislation is prepared by the students in advance of the tournaments and students debate the merits of the legislation presented. The DUDL Congressperson award goes to a student who demonstrates commitment, dedication, and excellence in DUDL congress sessions.

Congratulations to Jeremy Newton of York International, from Mapleton Public Schools. In addition to theater and all-state choir, Jeremy finds time to lead the team at Mapleton with great success. His coaches say that he is incredibly kind and accepting to everyone. He has demonstrated excellent research and public speaking skills, writing several bills for his team and served as Presiding Officer multiple times. Not only is he very polite and always willing to help at tournaments, he has a great sense of style. Who else can wear top hats and judge robes so well? Jeremy is also a senior, and we cannot wait to see what he does in the future. Who knows, maybe we will see Congressman Newton in DC one day?

Coach of the Year Award

Each of our debate teams is led by a teacher-coach who puts in countless hours during class, after school, and on the weekends. Our coaches not only help our students prepare for competition, but serve as mentors helping students overcome personal challenges, advise them in making future plans, and sometimes even drive to their house and get them out of bed for early Saturday morning tournaments. Seriously, they do. Most of our coaches come to their role as coach with no prior experience in Speech and Debate, and put in extra time to learn the activity alongside their students. The DUDL Coach of the Year is a prestigious honor, given to one of these coaches, who has gone above and beyond and demonstrated outstanding skill as an educator, as well as compassion for all of our students, and unparalleled dedication.

Congratulations to Tinesha Mix (AKA Mama Mix), coach at Noel Community Arts School. She has been with the DUDL for 4 years. She leads her team with immense grace and patience. While her team is small, they are truly a family that would not be possible without the leadership and guidance of this coach. She always has the best attitude, and is willing to go above and beyond to ensure that her students, her school, and the league are well prepared for success