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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**HOUSTON URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE AWARDED TWO NEW GRANTS**

The Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) today announced that it received two new grants from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation and the United Way of Greater Houston.

HUDL was awarded \$10,000 from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation to fund the Summer Institute – a one-week debate workshop hosted by HUDL at the University of Houston where participants learn how to improve their public speaking skills and how to develop a solid debate case. The Summer Institute, which is free to debate students and coaches, welcomed over 100 students in 2014, and attendance for 2015 is expected to be even larger.

“HUDL is very pleased at the confidence the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation has placed in our efforts to provide underserved high school students in Houston with summer training in academic debate,” said Charles Chafer, Chair of the Board of Directors for HUDL. “The Rupe Grant enables HUDL to continue its tradition of providing the best summer experience possible for our students. Our students will be trained by local and global experts in debate - offering all of our summer participants an opportunity to learn and prepare with the best. We are grateful for the Rupe Foundation's support.”

The Arthur N. Rupe Foundation is dedicated to achieving positive social change by shining the light of truth on critical and controversial issues. It pursues this mission through the support of scholarly studies, education, research, and public debate.

HUDL was also awarded nearly \$10,000 in the form of the United Way of Greater Houston Community Building Grant to be used towards purchasing office supplies and equipment.

“We’re so grateful that we were selected by the United Way of Greater Houston to be grant recipients,” said Leeyah Rasso, Events and Development Director for HUDL. “One of the ways this will help HUDL is by allowing our students to have a central location where they can collaborate with students from other schools in order to improve their debate skills.”

The United Way of Greater Houston transforms individual lives and brings long-lasting, systemic change to tough issues like family financial stability and education. Their mission is to increase the organized capacity of people to care for themselves and others and to mobilize the community to make lasting improvements in critical needs areas.

The Houston Urban Debate League is a non-profit 501(C)(3) dedicated to re-introducing academic debate to under-served and at-risk students in Houston area high schools. HUDL serves more than 1000 students in 30 HISD high schools and 12 middle schools. HUDL has enjoyed increasing competitive success in local, state and even national tournaments with teams placed among the top in the nation. Through the generosity of its supporters, HUDL is able to offer students the life-changing benefits of debate.



**[www.houstonurbandebateleague.org](http://www.houstonurbandebateleague.org)**

