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PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSTON URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES SECOND TOURNAMENT WINNERS

The Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) today announced the winners of its second debate tournament held at Westbury High School on October 11.

Despite SAT testing taking place, over 300 students from 20 schools across the Houston Independent School District competed through five rounds of debates in order to be crowned the winner at one of the largest debate tournaments on record.

This marks the second debate tournament of the 2014-2015 season, and it's one of the first tournaments to offer Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debate in addition to World Schools, Cross Examination and Public Forum. LD is a one-on-one debate format that places heavy emphasis on philosophy, logic and ethics. It's also one of the oldest formats which dates back to the debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

"We want to congratulate our students on their phenomenal performances," said Zenobia Harris Bivens, Executive Director for HUDL. "We hope that by offering Lincoln-Douglas this year, we're able to reach out to more students who are then able to enjoy the benefits of academic debate."

The winning teams for the second HUDL debate tournament are:

Lincoln-Douglas Varsity

- 1) Akshaya Annapragada – DeBakey
- 2) Laura Martinez – Westbury
- 3) Nicholas Abraham – Westside

Cross Examination Varsity

- 1) James Peralta and Francisco Martinez – East Early
- 2) Jessie Herrera and Sean Anderson – East Early
- 3) Austin Deleon and Kodilichukwu Akazie– Sharpstown

Cross Examination Junior Varsity

- 1) Nile Dixon and Osiel Mosqueda – Challenge
- 2) Luis Parra and Skye Massei – HAIS
- 3) Corina and Samantha Rivera – HAIS

World Schools Varsity

- 1) Tanooha Veeramachaneni, Meghana Gogineni and Amrutha Immadi – DeBakey
- 2) Guadalupe Rodriguez, Maria Cervantes and Karim Sabar – Lee
- 3) Vatsala Mundra, Amna Ali and Aparna Kambhampati – DeBakey

World Schools Junior Varsity

- 1) Jose Dolores, Annette Mata and Daniela Franco – Challenge
- 2) Wilver Garay, Jose Ruiz and Cristian Gallardo – North Houston Early College
- 3) Ivan Hernandez, Edna Olvera and Marcos Castro – East Early

Public Forum Varsity

- 1) Alex Hoyal and Ajani Smith- Washington – DeBakey
- 2) Poornima Tamma and Samira Traore – DeBakey
- 3) Adrian Moga and Siddarth Gorantla – DeBakey

Public Forum Junior Varsity

- 1) Zach Green and Tivis Hall – HAIS
- 2) Monica Garay and Cindy Vazquez – Westbury
- 3) Shufan Wen and Brian Xue – DeBakey



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 1070 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.

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www.houstonurbandebateleague.org