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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**HOUSTON URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES THIRD TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

The Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) today announced the winners of its third debate tournament held at Austin High School on November 15.

As the first tournament of the year to offer standard elimination rounds, students were especially excited for the awards ceremony. The race for sweepstakes was extremely close, with only 10 points separating first and second place.

Winners from the third HUDL debate tournament are:

**Sweepstakes Awards**

1st Place – HAIS

2nd Place – Westbury

**PF Varsity**

Co-champions

Hellen Jimenez and Alexis Valenzuela – HAIS

David Mena and Isis Cantu – HAIS

**WSD JV**

Champions

Fisiha Negussie, Antarius Williams and

Tesfamichael Negussie – Challenge Early College

Runner Ups

Kathryn Gonzales, Amena Jemal and Riley Dundon

– Challenge Early College

Semi-finalists

Hammad Muhammad, Darrell Diggs and Malik

Wheeler – Mickey Leland College Prep

Ladeja Jackson, Zharia Pineda and Irene Ayala

– HAIS

**WSD Varsity**

Co-champions

Paola Macias, Nicholas Abraham and Jacia Ali –

Westside

Lorenzo Moore, Aaron Arceneaux and Mileah Poole

– Westbury

Semi-finalists

Belshady Amanuel, Guadalupe Rodriguez and

Karim Sabar – Lee

Lawrence Bennett, Elissa Palmer and Doris

Hernandez – HAIS

**CX JV**

Co-champions

LaTavia Brandyberg and Folami Mack – HAIS

Nathaniel Vu and Skye Massei – HAIS

Semi-finalists

Jala Jones and Monica Garay – Westbury

Brenda Zoltan and Dejanee Cherry – Lee

**CX Varsity**

Co-champions

Zachary Duhon and Cristian Vences – HAIS

Paul Flores and Paul Niziol – HAIS

Semi-finalists

Destiny Villazana and Andrew Azuara – Reagan

Kamren Cohen and Gilbert Silva – HAIS

**LD Varsity**

Champion

Laura Martinez – Westbury

Runner Up

Jaliyyah Hodge – Westbury

Semi-finalists

Princess Jefferson – Westbury

Luis Carreon – Kashmere

**PF JV**

Champions

Anisha Thornabar and Krystal Parks – Sharpstown

International

Runner Ups

Luwam Kidne and Mario Flores – Sharpstown

International

Semi-finalists

Cindy Vazquez and Diana Arellano – Westbury

Vanessa Cervantes and Melissa Montanez – Sharpstown

International



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