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## **Chicago Debates Celebrates 25 Years With Inaugural Impact Showcase**

**(Chicago, IL) Chicago Debates** is celebrating 25 years of bridging the educational opportunity gap for Chicago Public School students. Kicking-off the celebratory year, Chicago Debates hosted their inaugural IMPACT SHOWCASE yesterday, March 3, 2022, from 6:30-7:15 p.m. In a return to in-person events, the Showcase was the first of many events where Chicago Debates will demonstrate the transformative power of debate and share their impact on Chicago's youth.

Ivette Juarez, a newly elected member of the Chicago Debates Student Council, kicked off the Showcase by sharing how debate helped her overcome many obstacles throughout the pandemic and during her time at Pritzker College Prep. "Debate has taught me discipline, perseverance, and confidence in myself. It became a safe haven for me, in a world that was constantly changing. My love and commitment to debate has grown," said Juarez.

The Showcase highlighted Chicago Debates' first ever Impact Report, showcased debate in action, highlighted their data driven approach to their work, previewed future growth and programmatic plans, and promoted collective impact through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned to inform and help others working to support youth academic, career, and leadership success. Check out the program [HERE](#).

### **About Chicago Debates**

For 25 years, Chicago Debates has been bridging the opportunity gap for Chicago youth. As one of the largest CPS after-school programs, we have served more than 1,700 Chicago Public School students a year (80% students of color and 72% of students attend a Title I School). Debaters in our program are 300% more likely to graduate high school and 80% more likely to graduate college than their peers.

"Debate is proven to improve academic performance, test scores and graduation rates and we are committed to creating more partnerships with businesses, community organizations, and institutions of higher learning to ensure the success of Chicago's youth," said Chicago Debates Executive Director Dr. Toinette Gunn.

*Chicago Debates is bridging the educational opportunity gap for Chicago Public School students by providing them with an after-school program that supports their academic, career, and leadership success. Our mission is to advance the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic debate. For more information, visit [www.chicagodebates.org](http://www.chicagodebates.org).*