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Dear Friends,

After 25 years of service to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teachers and students, Chicago Debates remains committed to our trajectory-shifting mission, ensuring Chicago youth maintain access to the most relevant and academically beneficial speech and debate opportunities in our region. Ultimately, we exist to empower and cultivate our student’s voices and contributions to their lives, communities, and futures.

In 2022, though virtual, our programming remained a source of discovery and education for more than 1,000 CPS students and 90+ CPS teachers across nearly 50 Chicago neighborhoods. Instead of viewing the constraints of the global pandemic as a setback, Chicago Debates focused, strategically, on the opportunity to continue to innovate our approach to out–of-school time programming - remaining a relevant thought leader in the Urban Debate ecosystem. As a result, Chicago Debates remains the largest Urban “Policy” Debate League and the second-largest Urban Debate League in the nation.

As we celebrated our 25th Anniversary, we took time to reflect on, celebrate, and honor the selfless commitment of our supporters and contributors who helped lay our organization’s foundation. We are beyond grateful!

Our future is bright, and we are excited to continue developing more accessible and equitable speech and debate opportunities for EVERY Chicago youth and educator. With your support, our dreams will ultimately become a reality. May the next few pages inspire you to imagine what more we can do together!

Sincerely,

Anthony Bolden  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eli Kay-Oliphant  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
On October 27, more than 450 guests joined Chicago Debates to celebrate our 25th Anniversary where we celebrated bringing urban debate to over 20K Chicago Public Schools students. We were grateful to be able to honor 25 of the most influential people in our history for their invaluable contributions to Chicago Debates. NBC5’s LeeAnn Trotter emceed this monumental, celebratory occasion. We were able to raise more than $200K to ensure we are able to continue bridging the educational opportunity gap by providing this the transformative, life changing experience of debate.

25TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Amanda S. Amert
Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Rich Berg
Executive Chairman & Co-Founder, Performance Trust Capital Partners

Robb Berry
Teacher, Debate Coach, Chicago Public Schools

Amit Bindra
Partner, The Prinz Law Firm, P.C.

Michael Boykins
Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Edie Canter
President, Canter Strategies Chicago Debates – Executive Director, 2011-2018

Tim Crane
President, Wintrust Financial Corporation

Robert Edwards
Teacher & Debate Coach, Chicago Public Schools

Andy Fine
Teacher & Debate Coach, Chicago Public Schools

Lenny Gail
Founding Partner, Massey & Gail LLP

David Gobberdiel
Managing Director, Head of Financial Institutions Group, Performance Trust Capital Partners

Dr. Michael Greenstein
Debate Coach, Glenbrook North High School

Pat Hughes
Partner, Fagre Drinker

Tony Howard
Executive Director, Policy and Procedures, Chicago Public Schools; Posthumous Honor

Dr. Janice Jackson
CEO, Hope Chicago

David Nadig
Senior Counsel, Willkie, Farr & Gallagher
Former Chair, Chicago Debates

Sylvia Nelson Jordan
Manager of Academic Competitions, Chicago Public Schools

Seymour Simon
Founder, Chicago Debate Commission; Chicago Debates, Illinois Appellate Court and Supreme Court Justice; Posthumous Honor

LaTonya Starks
Debate Coach, Northwestern University; Chicago Debates Alumnus, Class of 2000

Forrest Sumlar
Chief Compliance Officer, InterOcean Capital; Chicago Debates Alumnus, Class of 2003

Richard Sullivan
Chicago Debates and NAUDL Co-Founder, Retired

Wayne Tang
Counsel, Nixon Peabody LLC

LaTonya Starks
Debate Coach, Northwestern University; Chicago Debates Alumnus, Class of 2000

Forrest Sumlar
Chief Compliance Officer, InterOcean Capital; Chicago Debates Alumnus, Class of 2003

Richard Sullivan
Chicago Debates and NAUDL Co-Founder, Retired

Wayne Tang
Counsel, Nixon Peabody LLC
Our Program Model

IT’S MORE THAN AN ACTIVITY

FOR STUDENTS
Policy Debate, Original Oratory, Public Forum, Chicago Debates Summer Institute

Chicago Debates offers students the opportunity to engage in four speech & debate activities and we plan to offer more in the future!

FOR EDUCATORS
One-on-One Training, Curricular Support, and Resources

Chicago Public Schools teachers, and other school personnel, serve as the backbone to our work, we provide these individuals with a plethora of support to ensure their coaching experiences are positive.

FOR SCHOOLS & DISTRICT
Tournaments & Administration

Our exclusive partnership with Chicago Public Schools has thrived for more than 25 years, our administrative support and tournament offerings ensure students across the district maintain access to this trajectory-shifting activity.
Program Impact

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

1,058 Students Served  75 Schools Served  75% Title I Schools

46 Debate Tournaments  1,230 Hours of Coach Training & Support  97 Debate Coaches

STUDENTS SAID DEBATE:

- Increased their interest in politics and community engagement: 85%
- Strengthened their academic performance: 65%
- Improved critical thinking and communication skills: 78%
- Will help them be successful in college: 80%
- Improved reading skills: 75%
- Improve debate skills: 88%
- Tournaments were organized: 53%
Coach Impact Data

COACHES SAID:

85% Overall satisfaction score

89% Agreed/Strongly Agreed that coaching was an enjoyable part of their work life

93% Staff communicates well with them

76% Felt increased confidence in their coaching abilities

87% Felt supported by staff

95% Tournaments were organized
Serving 50+ Neighborhoods

NEIGHBORHOODS SERVED
Bridging The Educational Opportunity Gap

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Beasley Academic Center
- Bell Elementary School
- Boone Elementary School
- Brooks Academic Center
- CICS Wrightwood Elementary School
- DePriest Elementary School
- Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School
- Frazier International Magnet School
- George Manierre Elementary School
- Haines Elementary School
- Harriet Tubman Elementary School
- Hedges Elementary School
- Kershaw Elementary School
- Kilmer Elementary School
- KIPP One Academy
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Lindblom Academic Center
- McCutcheon Elementary School
- Nathan Hale Elementary School
- National Teachers Academy
- O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy
- Owen Scholastic Academy
- Peirce School of International Studies
- Sawyer Elementary School
- Skinner North Classical School
- Skinner West Elementary School
- South Loop Elementary School
- Wadsworth Elementary School
- West Park Academy

HIGH SCHOOL
- Amundsen High School
- Back of the Yards College Prep
- Brooks College Prep
- Carver Military Academy
- Chicago Bulls College Prep
- Chicago H.S. for Agricultural Sciences
- Chicago Military Academy
- Chicago Vocational Career Academy
- Crane Medical Prep High School
- Evanston Township High School
- Gary Comer College Prep
- Goode STEM Academy
- Hancock College Prep
- Hubbard High School
- Johnson College Prep
- Jones College Prep
- Kenwood Academy
- Lake View High School
- Lane Tech College Prep
- Legal Prep Charter School
- Lincoln Park High School
- Lindblom Math and Science Academy
- Little Village Lawndale High School
- Mather High School
- Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School
- Morgan Park High School
- Northside College Prep
- Pritzker College Prep
- Phoenix Military Academy
- Prosser Career Academy
- Proviso West High School
- Rickover Naval Academy
- Schurz High School
- Senn High School
- Solorio Academy High School
- Steinmetz College Prep
- South Shore International
- Taft High School
- Thomas Kelly High School
- Urban Prep Bronzeville
- Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center
- Walter Payton College Prep
- Washington High School
- Whitney Young High School
Program Highlights

DEBATER OF THE YEAR

GIO RIOS
SOLORIO ACADEMY HS

Giovanni Rios, has been a member of the Solorio debate team since 9th grade, making it to the finals of the JV division of his Conference Championship. Gio continued to climb the ranks during the tournament season, and went on to debate at the University of Michigan Juniors Round Robin Invitational (two consecutive years) and tournament, Emory University, among others.

Gio routinely judges both middle school and novice debates, and diligently works to make sure junior debaters have an opportunity to learn from their experiences. He is also a member of the Chicago Debates Leadership Council. “Gio is a very intelligent individual who works hard and perseveres through anything he encounters. He is one of the most dedicated and well-rounded individuals that I have encountered,” said one of his classmates.

CITY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

NOVICE TEAM: Tarun Shah & Simon Burstein (Lane Tech College Prep)

JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM: Shrutik De & Jonah Halloran (Northside College Prep)

VARSITY TEAM CO-CHAMPIONS: Axel Franco & Bryant Bahena (Solorio Academy High School) and Kevin Ramirez (Solorio Academy High School) & Kelly Lin (Thomas Kelly High School)

ALUM OF THE YEAR

DAILYN DAVIS
LINDBLOM HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNA

Dailyn Davis began debating in 6th grade and immediately stepped into a substantial coaching position helping to support both the middle and high school program at her alma mater, Lindblom High School. She is currently a junior at Fisk University where she is studying political science and biology. Dailyn is a staple of the Chicago Debates community and truly represents what it means to be an alum of the program.
Class of 2022 Student Spotlight

FATIMA MENDOZA & MALCOLM PINKSTON

MEET MALCOLM!
Malcolm Pinkston is a graduate of Chicago Bulls College Prep and debated for two years. Malcolm was the recipient of Chicago Debates’ Inaugural Sullivan Scholarship Award. Philanthropist, Helen Sullivan and longtime Chicago Debates supporter, Dick Sullivan pledged this legacy gift to Chicago Debates in 2021 to provide additional resources to students to increase their chances of long-term success. Malcolm is currently pursuing a political science degree by attending the Naval Preparatory Academy and plans to pursue a career in politics.

“Debate has given me an opportunity to meet new people and become a better listener,” said Malcolm. “Chicago Debates has impacted my future and set me up for success by helping me develop better research skills, and the ability to articulate myself in challenging situations. This will help me in my college and career experiences.”

MEET FATIMA!
Fatima Mendoza is a graduate of Hancock College Prep and is the school’s first graduate to attend Harvard University. Fatima began debating as a sophomore, as a shy and reserved student that wanted to step outside of her comfort zone. She recognizes that debate helped her find her voice and gave her the courage and confidence to apply to Harvard.

“Through debate, I developed self-confidence, and learned how to articulate myself to the best of my ability, which led to gaining more self-esteem and the courage to apply to Harvard.”

Fatima is attending Harvard on a full-tuition scholarship and hopes to pursue a career in law.
Coaches Spotlight

COACH OF THE YEAR

TYLER IGIELSKI WELCH
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Tyler Igielski Welch took the debate community by storm in his 2 short years of both teaching and coaching at Washington High School. Tyler debated in high school, and judged tournaments for many years during college. “I know how important being a part of a team can be and I know the impact that a great coach can have on students from both personal and academic standpoints,” said Tyler. Sighting an increase in confidence as one of the many impacts he’s seen debate have on his students, Tyler added, “The transformations you witness as a coach are astonishing! Students can go from being extremely quiet and not comfortable speaking to you one on one, to being able to command a room when they are speaking. The other main skill I love about debate, and seeing students come to appreciate, is seeing an issue from both sides, and having to argue it from both sides. I think that fosters real creativity.”

DEDICATION REWARDED

CATHERINE YACKEE
BROOKS COLLEGE PREP

Chicago Debates has witnessed our students make tremendous progress over the years. More than 15 years as a coach has been a truly rewarding experience for Board Certified, Brooks College Prep teacher, Catherine Yackee. Seeing two of her debaters off to Yale and Dartmouth in 2022, Cathy has coached more than 200 Middle and High School students. “I have always enjoyed building relationships with my students. Many of them have gone on to be very successful,” said Yackee. “Debate gives students a voice, confidence, research and public speaking skills.” Chicago Debates is grateful for Coach Yackee and her 15 years of dedication and service.
Volunteers Make an Impact

**VOLUNTEER IMPACT DATA**

- 86% Felt they were making a difference while working with students
- 92% Felt confidence in their role
- 92% Volunteer need met

**MEET HILLARY!**

Hillary Turinawe is from a rural area in midwestern Uganda. While searching for more opportunities to have an impact on others and fund his university education, Hillary joined Chicago Debates as a judge during the height of the organization’s need for virtual judges.

“Chicago Debates’ guidance, timely communication, as well as the need to encourage students to debate has made me love Chicago Debates and feel more connected,” said Hillary. “I am happy to be a part of this journey creating future leaders.”

**MEET LANA!**

Lana is a Brooks College Prep Alum, and currently an MBA Student. Lana began debating in her freshman year with a goal of becoming an attorney.

“Debate allowed me a space for competition, creativity, community, skills development, self-esteem, self-confidence and achievement,” said Lana. “I have been with Chicago Debates for nearly 16 years, and volunteer because I support youth development, self-expression and community enrichment.”

$57,895 Value of the 4,243 Volunteer Hours
Chicago Debates

IN THE MEDIA

**PERFORMANCE TRUST**
Performance Trust and Chicago Debates, Bridging the Education Gap for 10 Years

**FOX 32 CHICAGO**
Chicago debates future of Ketanji Brown Jackson on high court

**CBS CHICAGO**
Debaters At Chicago’s Gary Comer College Prep Are Inspired By Story Of U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

**NBC 5 CHICAGO**
Chicago Debates Gives Strong Voice to CPS Students

**CRAIN’S CHICAGO BUSINESS**
Crain’s 2021 Notable Black Leaders and Executives – Dr. Toinette Gunn
Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Statement of Financial Position

Cash and cash equivalents $599,445
Grants & Account Receivables $211,304
Contributions Receivables $131,463
Prepaid Expenses $8,042
Other Assets $32,110
Total Current Assets $982,364
Current Liabilities $50,856
Total Net Assets $931,508

Statement of Activities

REVENUE

Corporations & Other Contributions $126,906
Foundations $147,688
Board & Individual Contributions $230,819
Special Events $247,053
Other Income $321,575
In-Kind Contributions $10,860
Total Revenue $1,084,901

EXPENSES

Program Services $736,151
Management & General $97,253
Fundraising $207,917
Total Expenses $1,041,321
Net Revenue $43,580
Participation & Coach Support Goals

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next three years, Chicago Debates aims to increase the number of students, schools, and coaches served through intentional program adjustments and investments. We will establish a Spanish Language Debate program, significantly expand our Public Forum debate program on the Middle School level, and focus our new school recruitment efforts in communities on the South and West sides of the city.

### Participation Goals

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<th>FY24</th>
<th>FY25</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>2,142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>103</td>
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### Coach Support Goals

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<th>FY24</th>
<th>FY25</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Coaches</td>
<td>75-100</td>
<td>100-115</td>
<td>115-130</td>
<td>130-150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Coach Support Hours</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,700</td>
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THANKS TO YOU!

Thanks to your commitment, we were able to award Title I students sponsorships to our annual Debate Summer Camp, add new Chicago Public Schools debate teams to our program, offer additional coach and staff support, and so much more! We could not have done these things without YOU!

We appreciate all donations – large or small! Our staff has made every effort to ensure all donations are accurately reflected. However, errors occasionally occur. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omission, misspelling or incorrect listing. Please contact our Development team to allow us an opportunity to update our records.

Note: FY22 is July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Champion Debater Level
$50,000+
- Paul M Angell Family Foundation
- Shippy Foundation

Varsity Debater Level
$20,000+
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Fifth Third Bank
- Kirkland & Ellis
- Performance Trust Capital Partners
- The Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
- W.P. & H. B. White Foundation
- Wintrust

 JVarsity Debater Level
$10,000+
- The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
- The Andrew & Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
- Chicago Community Trust
- Helen Brach Foundation
- John Hammond
- Mark Koulougeorge
- McDermott Will & Emery
- Steans Family Foundation

Novice Debater Level
$5,000+
- Adtalem Global Education
- Allstate Insurance Company
- Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP
- Chuhak & TeceSon Attorneys at Law
- CRA Charles River Associates
- David Nadig
- Eli Kay-Oliphant
- Amanda Amert
- Ice Miller LLP
- Jenner & Block
- John Hammond
- McDermott Will & Emery
- Origami Risk
- Sparacino PLLC
- Steve Washington Performance Trust Capital Partners
- The Prinz Law Firm
- Winston & Strawn LLP

Rookie Debater Level
$1,000+
- A Bigger World Foundation
- AF Group
- AIXPartners, LLP
- Allstate Insurance Company
- Amit Bindra
- Canary HR Consulting
- George Johnson & Co
- Barrington Lopez
- Bradford Allen
- Brandon Massey
- Brian Donlan
- Brianna White
- Catherine Hammond
- Charles River Associates
- Cindy Stuyvesant
- Jesse Soffer
- Joel Rosenbacher Fund
- Judge Carl Boyd
- Karen & Paul Hoelscher
- Keith Walker
- Keith Wright
- Lawrence Hefman
- Lawrence Horwich
- Marguerite Dixon
- New Frontiers Foundation
- Onur Surgut
- Rachel Loftin
- Renee & Michael Slade
- Sheryl Burkhalter
- Stanley Prierson
- Susan Warshauer
- Tania White
- Theodore Utchen
- The Prinz Law Firm, P.C.
- Toinette Gunn
- Walter & Karla Goldschmidt Foundation
- Will Repko
- Wintrust Financial Corporation
- WIPFLI

Scrimmage Debater Level
$5-$999
- Aderious Bolden
- Adina Levin
- Adrienne Irmer
- Alex Ofei
- Alexandra Wright
- Alicia Lascelles
- Angela Whiteside
- Smith
- Angie Alleman
- Anita Rice
- Anàita Smith
- Ann Peter
- Anna Deutscher
- Anne Schafroth
- Arlyn Miller
- Ashley Garvey
- Avery Herbon
- Avik Das
- Banner Wicoff
- Barbara Williams
- Ben Paterson
- Beth Niestat
- Bettina I. Itcovici
- Bianca Barron
- Bijan Poustinian
- Blake Cannon
- Bob Morgan
- Bobby Niska
- Brandon Ball
- Brandon J Nadig
- Brannon Ayers
- Brian Brown
- Brian Foor
- Brian Jones
- Brian Rubaie
- Brian Shah-Delong
- Briana DeSha
- Bridget McManus
- Bridget Nason
- Brielle Bryant
- Brienne Letourneau
- Brittany Hanna
- Brittany Hughes
- Carlos Penikis
- Carmen Walker
- Carol Anne Been
- Carrie Roe
- Carter Hince
- Charities Aid Foundation America
- Charles Carmack
- Charles Dyke
- Cherie Ledet
- Cheryl Hammock
- Chris Stathopoulos
- Chris Wheat
- Christopher Anest
- Christopher Hummel
- Christopher Pierson
- Cindy Talmadge
- Colleen Woulfe & Christopher Law
- Corliss Garner
- Cornell Batie
- Cynthia Hobbs
- Dale Hammond
- Dana Emran
- Daniel Charles
- Daniel Scott
- Danielle O’Gorman
- Danika Desgazon
- David & Susan Mendelsohn
THANKS TO YOU!

(CONTINUED)
A LEGACY OF IMPACT

RHONDA FERGUSON IN MEMORIAM

Chicago Debates had the privilege of honoring Allstate and Rhonda during our 2020 Make Room for Debate Luncheon for Allstate’s decade of support and commitment to youth. Shortly after, we lost Rhonda Ferguson. Her legacy and impact lives on amongst the meaningful connections she made as a result of her commitment and passion to serve.

Rhonda’s actions demonstrated the importance and impact of supporting Chicago’s youth. She was excited about our upcoming Allstate-sponsored tournament, as she had begun to think about the many ways she intended to help Chicago Debates’ carry forth its mission. We carry forward her legacy by rewarding a deserving student the Rhonda Smith Ferguson Impact Award during our Allstate Public Forum Invitational Tournament.

“Rhonda’s visionary leadership and impact on Allstate is immeasurable. We are deeply saddened by the loss of such an admirable colleague, friend, and mentor. She led with passion, intention, and integrity. As we continue our partnership with Chicago Debates, Rhonda was eager to help lead the charge. Her service to the community was unwavering and she will be sorely missed.”

— Jerry Zimmerman
Chicago Debates Board Member,
Senior Vice President – Government and Industry Relations at Allstate

GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEER
To volunteer at one of our tournaments, visit chicago.debates.org/volunteer or contact Lauren Hince, Volunteer & Outreach Manager, at lhince@chicagodebates.org for more information.

We offer resources to help you introduce Chicago Debates to your network, from hosting a Game Night, Virtual Trivia Challenge, or other fun opportunities! For more information, please contact our Director of Development, Marissa Barnes at mbarnes@chicagodebates.org.

DONATE
If you’d like to support Chicago students and ensure that they continue to have access to the transformative activity of debate, please DONATE at chicagodebates.org/donate or contact our Development Team at development@chicagodebates.org for more information.