



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Welcome Letter

NAUDL Mission

The Debate Impact

20 Years of Debate

Debater of the Year

Coach of the Year

Our Donors

Financials

Leadership

Stay Connected



First and foremost, thank you. Whether you are new to the significance and opportunities of NAUDL's work -- or have been a champion of our efforts for years, your connection makes a difference in creating debate programs where they wouldn't otherwise exist.

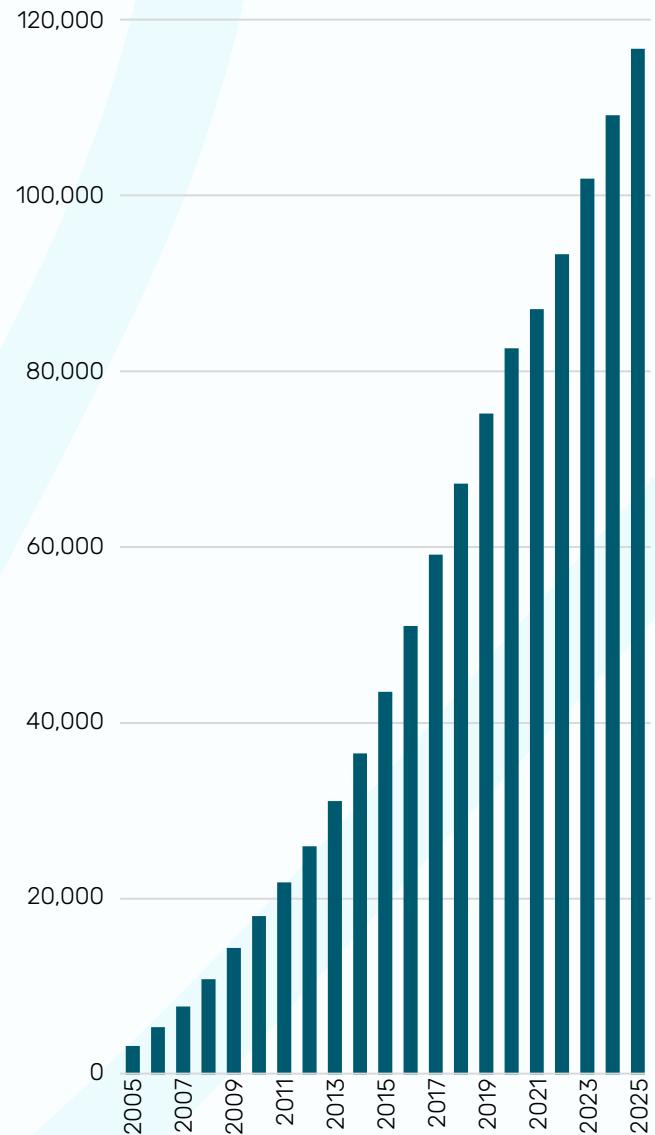
Over **20 years** of the Urban Debate Network, no debater has ever paid a tournament fee, nor a travel expense, and no league has ever paid membership or association dues. Our legacy is sustainable because so many have invested in the belief that *resources shouldn't determine access to the unparalleled benefits of debate.*

You make it possible for an increasing number of students to participate in an activity that sharpens their problem-solving skills, builds the confidence to shape their futures, and tackles a critical gap in American education: most K-12 students are never taught how to publicly communicate. When students debate, they learn how to command a room, speak their minds in a way that can persuade any audience, and walk into new spaces with purpose -- all of which translates into college and career readiness.

For our next chapter, NAUDL is committed to continued evolution in meeting the needs of the next generation of leaders. We enthusiastically support new avenues for practicing debate in more formats and languages, engaging students through topics that are most relevant to them and their communities, and transforming the everyday classroom experience into one that sparks their interest. We hope you take as much pride as we do in preparing young people to challenge assumptions with civil discourse, to achieve their own vision of success, and to forge new paths as powerful advocates for a stronger democracy.

Jennifer Northam Wade
Chair, Board of Directors

Cumulative Network Debaters Served





NAUDL MISSION

Advancing debate education in public schools to amplify youth voices and to develop confidence for future success.

Welcome
Letter

NAUDL
Mission

The Debate
Impact

20 Years
of Debate

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THE DEBATE IMPACT

NAUDL is the leader in commissioning peer-reviewed research on the impact of academic debate.

These GPA and test scores are highlights of these studies and results are network debater outcomes as compared to their direct peers. More can be learned on our research page.

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.66

Higher GPA

+52

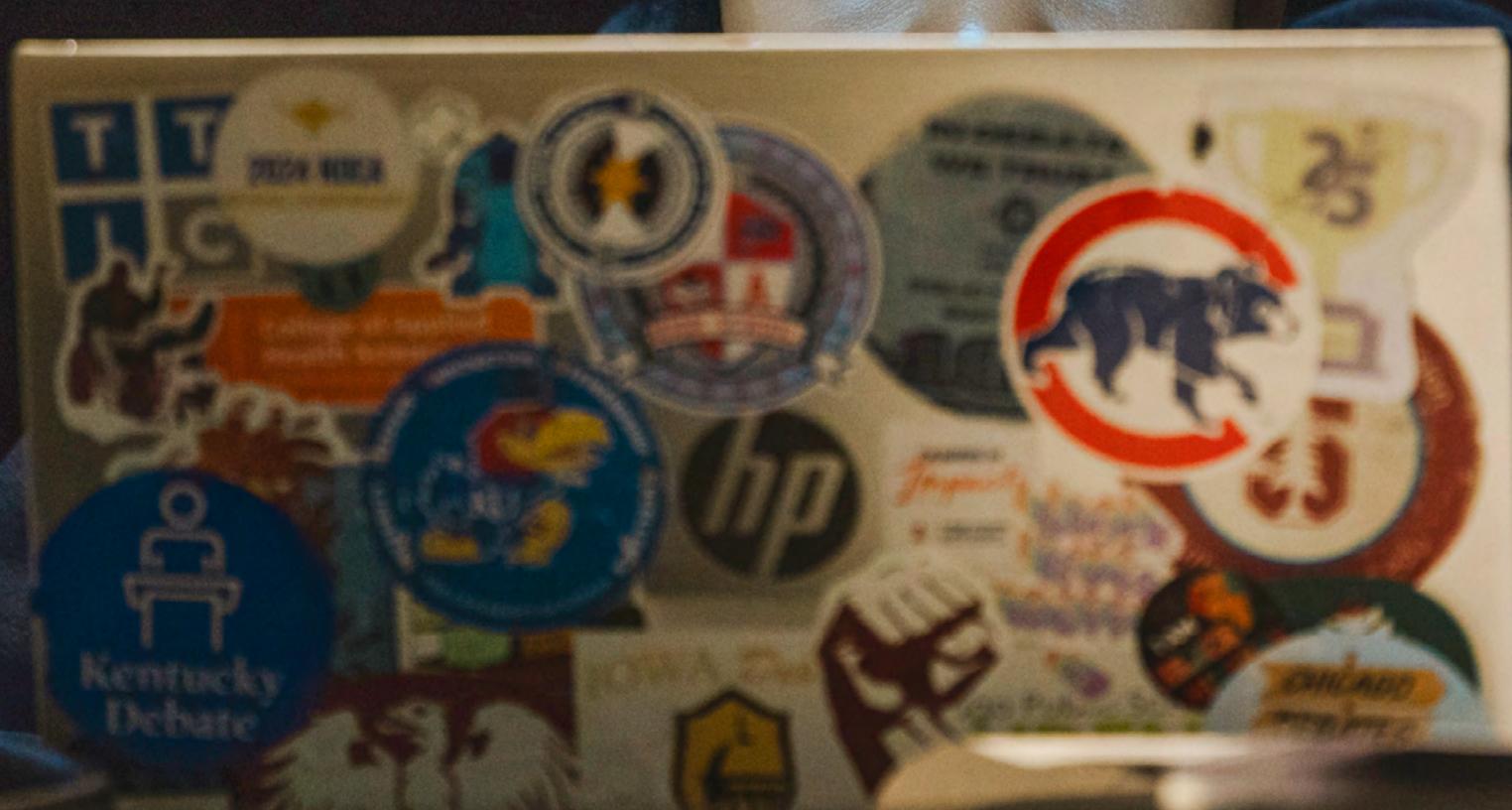
Math SAT Scores

+57

Reading SAT Scores

96%

of Urban Debate Network seniors plan to attend college and debaters are **1.3x** more likely to attend college than the national standard.



College attendance rate is in comparison to students with similar population data, as per the National Student Clearinghouse.



20 YEARS OF DEBATE: A TIMELINE

.... SCROLL ... ➤

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2004

NETWORK LEAGUES

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit



2005

3,250 Debaters

NAUDL Founded

NAUDL is founded as a national brand and voice for urban debate leagues, which at the time served approx. 2,000 students.

NETWORK LEAGUES

Bay Area Los Angeles
Dallas St. Louis*
Denver

2009

14,400 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Houston Nashville
Memphis

2008

10,857 Debaters

Urban Debate National Championship Established

The Urban Debate National Championship (UDNC) is the pinnacle of the season for

*Retired league

debaters across the network. Held on a renowned college campus, this annual competition offers students a memorable and eye-opening experience with the opportunity to engage and strengthen relationships with peers from other leagues.

NAUDL Hosts First Annual Dinner

In support of UDNC activities, and as a national fundraiser for NAUDL programs and initiatives, NAUDL hosts its first Annual Dinner.

NETWORK LEAGUES

Austin* Minnesota
Boston Seattle*

2008

10,857 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Houston Nashville
Memphis

2009

14,400 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Houston Milwaukee*



2012

25,955 Debaters

Great Space Debate

Held at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, league teams debated expanding the space program as vital to America's economic future.

NETWORK LEAGUES

New York City

2013

31,101 Debaters

Debater of the Year Award Established

White House Visit

Eight network debaters traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office. During their two-day stay, students and their coaches also met with the Secretaries of Commerce, Treasury and Education as well as a Supreme Court Justice.



2014

36,519 Debaters

Debater of the Year Award Established

White House Visit

The Debater of the Year (DOY) honor recognizes a debater who demonstrates commitment to debate, improvement in their academic performance and leadership in their school, urban debate league and community. The DOY and six DOY Finalists are all recognized and receive a scholarship award. The DOY also has the opportunity to speak at the Annual Dinner.



2014

36,519 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Portland Sacramento

2015

43,536 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Miami-Dade Silicon Valley
Tulsa Washington, D.C.

2016

51,030 Debaters

Presidential Scholars

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is a Department of Education program that recognizes the academic achievements of high school students. NAUDL is one of a select group of youth organizations invited to nominate Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors.

NETWORK LEAGUES

Portland Sacramento

2017

59,128 Debaters

Flip the Debate

Launch of Teach Debate

Coach of the Year Award Established

White House Visit

Available to all league partners, this online curriculum provides a "go-to" platform for new and experienced teachers with lesson plans, toolkits, training modules, network data and "community" sharing activities among members.



2017

59,128 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Milwaukee*

2018

67,205 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2018

67,205 Debaters

Financial Literacy Debates

As part of a multi-year, \$1.7 million commitment in partnership with **Citi Foundation's** Pathway to Success program, the Financial Literacy Series was launched as a unique debate curriculum, leveraging traditional debate practices to introduce high school students to basic financial planning and decision making.

NETWORK LEAGUES

New York City

2019

75,178 Debaters

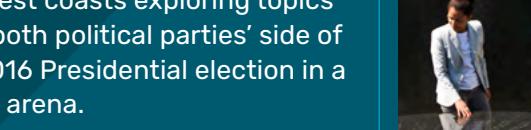
I RESOLVE

Launch of Teach Debate

Coach of the Year Award Established

White House Visit

Available to all league partners, this online curriculum provides a "go-to" platform for new and experienced teachers with lesson plans, toolkits, training modules, network data and "community" sharing activities among members.



2019

75,178 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Portland Sacramento

2020

82,609 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2020

82,609 Debaters

Immersion Trip, Montgomery

2020

2021

87,068 Debaters

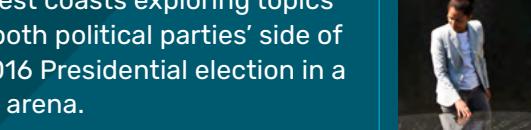
NAUDL Fellows

Immersion Trip: Career, Culture & Capital

Coach of the Year Award Established

White House Visit

Ultimately named the **White & Case NAUDL Fellows**, this longstanding summer mentor



2021

87,068 Debaters

NETWORK LEAGUES

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2022

93,313 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2022

93,313 Debaters

Immersion Trip, Montgomery

2022

2023

10,902 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2023

10,902 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2023

10,902 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2023

10,902 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2024

10,934 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2024

10,934 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

11,677 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

11,677 Debaters

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

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2025

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Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore* Newark*
Chicago Rhode Island*
Detroit

2025

NAUDL Fellows

Atlanta Kansas City
Baltimore*



NETWORK VOICES

2025 DEBATER OF THE YEAR

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For me, debate is so much more than just a game. It is a vehicle for change. It is my community. My home.

Chloe Truong

Independence High School (2025)

Silicon Valley Urban Debate League

This is what debate has taught me, and this is what I have to say: Our community has the power to be both a competitive space and a force for social progress. Through debate I have not only discovered my authentic voice, but I have also developed the courage to use it in service of something larger than myself.

I plan on majoring in either political science or economics. I am drawn to this field because of the opportunity it provides to engage with diverse communities and environments, as well as its potential to shape the future of the legal industry.





NETWORK VOICES

2025 COACH OF THE YEAR

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Charles has gone above and beyond in cultivating debate in Chicago. The guy is a one-man show. I cannot imagine somebody else more deserving of this honor.

Charles Rosentel

Pritzker College Prep, A Noble Charter School

Chicago Debates

Charles grows debate in his school and network, taking teachers under his wing and helping to cultivate the rare resource that is a dedicated coach. He has also made a conference within a conference -- organizing a tournament before the City Debate Championship. Impressively, he has accomplished all of this with no high school debate background himself.

A classroom of 20 novices is Charles' average afternoon. He is a much-loved teacher at Pritzker College Prep and is admired by his colleagues for his insightful feedback and coaching. He also serves on our Coaches' Council and brings a culture of inclusivity and experience-worn wisdom to that team of adults. Charles is uniquely warm-hearted and driven by mission. He is an excellent school leader and knows how to champion his values.

As told by Sonny Patel, Chicago Debates nominator





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS DONORS AT \$500 OR ABOVE FROM JUNE 30, 2024-JULY 1, 2025

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ORGANIZATIONS

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Anonymous
The Asia Group Foundation
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Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP
Policy Resolution Group (Bracewell LLP)
Fish & Richardson P.C.
Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation
Hersh Foundation
Hogan Lovells LLP
The Joyce Foundation Fund, to honor Ellen S. Alberding at the Chicago Community Foundation
Kazmarek Mowrey Coud Laseter LLP
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
Massey & Gail LLP
MK Capital
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
NextEra Energy Inc. Oracle
PAC Match Charity Account
Principle Recruiting Pritzker Traubert Foundation
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Southern Company
Squire Patton Boggs LLP
State Farm Companies Foundation
White & Case LLP

INDIVIDUALS

Eric Aboaf and Cheryl Whaley
William and Susan Abrams
Joseph Angland
Anonymous
Jennifer Armstrong
Sameer Asher
Kate Baxter-Kauf
Howard Beales
Joshua Branson
Norma Kerlin Buchman
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Richard Tuttle
Shaun Van Horn
Jennifer Northam Wade
Jonathan Wells
David Zarefsky
Bill Ziegelmueller

Our utmost gratitude to our **Donor Hall of Fame** for your unparalleled investment in the founding, growth and vision of the Urban Debate Network

Leonard A. Gail & Robin Steans
Mark and Karen Koulogeorge
Jennifer Northam Wade

Special Thanks to our Signature Program and Scholarship Partners



BSF BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER

Liz & Randal Sandler

WHITE & CASE



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

Welcome Letter

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	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 1,013,864	\$ 1,135,780
Investments	142,352	141,106
Promises to give - current	626,559	155,374
Other receivables	8,029	10
Prepaid expenses	14,975	12,649
Total Current Assets	1,805,779	1,444,919
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - NET		
OTHER ASSETS		
Promises to give - long-term - net	1,323,848	11,542
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,135,766	\$ 1,460,705
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 61,421	\$ 32,319
Accrued expenses	47,072	90,792
Total Current Liabilities	108,493	123,111
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
General operating	494,205	401,718
Board designated	474,693	584,808
Total without donor restrictions	968,898	986,526
With donor restrictions		
Total Net Assets	3,027,273	1,337,594
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 3,135,766	\$ 1,460,705



NAUDL LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

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Boies Schiller & Flexner

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Joshua Friess

The Avery Coonley School

Leonard A. Gail

NAUDL Co-Founder

Massey & Gail

J. Mark Gidley

White & Case

David Glass, M.D.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Michael J. Gottlieb

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

The Honorable Kenneth M. Karas

U.S. District Court Judge Southern District of New York

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Meredith McClintock

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Director of Programs & Communications

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Program Manager

Kwa Fangtang

Development Associate

Samantha (Sam) Kestler

Digital Marketing & Communications Coordinator



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Supporting the next generation of compelling voices fueled by reason, anchored in confidence

