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## **Nashville Debate League hosts 3rd tournament of season; MNPS students earn high marks**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 21, 2016) — Forty-five students from five Metro Nashville Public Schools attended and earned high marks at the November Nashville League tournament at Hillwood Comprehensive High School on Saturday, Nov.19.

Participating schools included; Hillwood Comprehensive High School with debate coach, Amanda Hyatt-Clarke, Martin Luther King High School with debate coach, Otis Allen, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School with debate coach, Courtney Shultz, Lead Academy with debate coach, Krishnan Ramanujan, and McGavock High School with debate coach, Erin Hunt.

The top nine individual speakers in the varsity division, top 12 individual speakers in the novice division, top six teams in the varsity division, and top five teams in the novice division were recognized at a concluding award ceremony presented by the Nashville Debate League board of directors.

In the varsity division, top speakers were:

- 1st Place Speaker, Bryce Troia, Martin Luther King High School
- 2nd Place Speaker, Olivia Whitney, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 3rd Place Speaker, Chris McNane, Hillwood Comprehensive High School

- 4th Place Speaker, Lauren Jordan, Martin Luther King High School
- 5th Place Speaker, Frank Jordan, Martin Luther King High School
- 6th Place Speaker, Marjan Ata, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
- 7th Place Speaker, Misha Apykthin, Martin Luther King High School
- 8th Place Speaker, Alex David, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 9th Place Speaker, Yasin Al-Hadid , Martin Luther King High School

In the novice division, top speakers were:

- 1st Place Speaker, Elma Jashim, Martin Luther King High School
- 2nd Place Speaker, Jackson Guthrie, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 3rd Place Speaker, Swasti Mishra, Martin Luther King High School
- 4th Place Speaker, Princess Dang, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
- 5th Place Speaker, Amira White, Lead Academy
- 6th Place Speaker, Layla Ahmed, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
- 7th Place Speaker, Veen Tovi, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 8th Place Speaker, Quinn Troia, Martin Luther King High School
- 9th Place Speaker, Suchetha Shashi, Martin Luther King High School
- 10th Place Speaker, Zeen Tovi, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 11th Place Speaker, Reem Wolde, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 12th Place Speaker, Simone Harris, McGavock High School

In the varsity division, top teams were:

- 1st Place, Brandon Zimmerman and Frank Jordan, Martin Luther King High School
- 2nd Place, Mandy Schremmer and Lauren Jordan, Martin Luther King High School
- 3rd Place, Sakshi Sarwarkar and Marjan Ata, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
- 4th Place, Olivia Whitney and Chris McNane, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 5th Place, Kaita Igarashi and Bryce Troia, Martin Luther King High School

In the novice division, top teams were:

- 1st Place, Suchetha Shashi and Elma Jashin, Martin Luther King High School
- 2nd Place, Latiana Carter and Jackson Guthrie, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 3rd Place, Veen Tovi and Zeen Tovi, Hillwood Comprehensive High School
- 4th Place, Swasti Mishra and Quinn Troia, Martin Luther King High School
- 5th Place, Sarah Cagna and Princess Dang, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School
- 6th Place, Christine Nguyen and Amira White, Lead Academy

The next Nashville Debate League tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 at Hillwood Comprehensive High School.

### **Nashville Debate League**

Since 2010, the Nashville Debate League (“NDL”) has held monthly debate tournaments for MNPS students to compete in research-based policy debate. Studies have shown that competitive urban debate can help low-income students of color close the achievement gap in urban public schools. NDL students quickly acquire the skills to take charge of their learning, dive deeply into complex issues, become critical thinkers and problem-solvers, and find their voices in a safe, supportive environment. The Nashville Debate League is a member of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues.

### **National Association for Urban Debate Leagues**

The National Association for Urban Debate Leagues closes the achievement gap in urban public schools by giving urban students the opportunity to compete in academic debate. Its urban debate programs serve 8,400 students in 19 cities across the United States. Seventy-six percent of urban debaters are from low-income families and 86% are students of color. Urban debaters are 89% more likely than non-debaters to attend a four-year college or university.

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