



**IMPACTCoalition** 330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2420, New York, New York 10036 (212) 702-0944  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of Directors

Chair  
Linda Coyo  
Sibson & Company

Vice Chair  
Will Baker  
Committee of Religious NGO's

Treasurer  
William Goodloe  
Sponsors for Educational Opportunity

Robin L. Baker  
Attorney

Carlene Hunte  
School for Legal Studies

Dr. Rhoda Kleiman  
Library Media Services

Dr. Crystal Knykendall  
K.I.R.K., Inc.

Anne Marie O'Halloran  
Accenture

Shawn Robertson  
Franklin K. Lane High School

Michelle LeMay Santiago  
FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund

Professor Sydney Schwartz  
Queens College  
CUNY

Peter Torres  
Wadleigh Secondary School

Paul Young  
UBS Warburg

#### Staff

Chief Executive Officer  
Will Baker

General Manager  
Emmanuel Villanueva

#### Consultants

Legal  
Michael Miller

Development  
Juliet Gumbs

CONTACT: Will Baker (212) 702-0944

[Impactcoalition@cs.com](mailto:Impactcoalition@cs.com)

### "SHARING THE PIE:" NEW YORK TRI-STATE SPEAKERS ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH IMPACT

New York June 5, 2003. When Cavett Robert, founder of the National Speakers Association (NSA) envisioned an organization where professional speakers could convene to improve their presentations, exchange ideas and share experiences, he referred to it as "making a bigger pie." Today in the New York region the pie is not only larger, it has also become more varied, as the New York Tri-State Speakers Association, Inc., a chapter of the NSA, embarks on a partnership with the IMPACT Coalition, a nonprofit career development organization that enhances the educational and career opportunities of urban students through training in debate and workplace dynamics. As part of its twentieth anniversary celebration, the NY Tri-State Speakers Association announced plans to adopt an urban debate team through IMPACT and thus encourage a new generation of public speakers and active citizens in the New York City schools. Considered "The Voice of the Speaking Profession," the NSA nationally is the leading organization for experts who speak professionally, reaching audiences as trainers, educators, humorists, consultants, and authors. The NY Tri-State chapter, founded in 1982, holds monthly educational meetings and sponsors an annual "Speakers University" for speakers at all levels and an intensive "Fast Track" program for professional speakers. Adopting a debate team is the chapter's first expansion from platform to philanthropy.

The New York Urban Debate League (NYUDL) is IMPACT's flagship program with forty-five city high schools participating in this policy debate initiative. The NYUDL was established in 1997 in partnership with Emory University and the Open Society Institute (OSI), a private operating and grant-making foundation created by billionaire George Soros to promote the development of open society around the world by encouraging debate as an advocacy tool to strengthen the capacity of marginalized groups. Most of the schools are Title I schools, which means their students deal with high degrees of poverty. IMPACT stands for "Improving Mentor Practices and Communication Techniques," and the NYUDL is an integral part of the IMPACT Coalition's Campaign for Policy Debate. In a time of aggressive budget cuts and concerns about public education, partnerships like this one are essential for educating city youth. With IMPACT's proven record of achievement—debate teams from New York City Title I public high schools took top honors at the New York State Forensics League Championships this year and an IMPACT-supported collegiate-level team won the Cross Examination Debate Association national competition—the partnership with the New York Tri-State Speakers Association is a natural fit. IMPACT's adopt-a-debate team program allows individuals, businesses, professional associations and community groups to sponsor high school and college debate teams in New York City.

By making competitive debate accessible to all students, the Campaign ensures the growth of a network of urban leaders with strong advocacy skills. The IMPACT Coalition also works actively with college debate teams in the New York area and has enjoyed great success in national competitions—beating schools with larger budgets and institutionalized teams. IMPACT's college collaboration model displays dual benefits of outreach and competitive success. New York Tri-State Association co-president Juan Negroni said, "Good citizenship depends on effective public speaking. The New York Tri-State Speakers Association is delighted to adopt a UDL debate team."

#

#

#

#

**Fax (212) 471-8664 <http://www.impactcoalition.org> Email: [impactcoalition@cs.com](mailto:impactcoalition@cs.com)**

*IMPACT stands for Improving Mentor Practices and Communication Techniques.  
IMPACT is a 501c3 career development organization holding keys to our success.*