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ACORN STUDENTS SECURE NATIONAL DEBATE HONORS

New York –Jose Abraham and Randy Wilson from ACORN Community High School, represented the IMPACT Coalition's New York Urban Debate League (NYUDL) at the JB Fuqua Novice National Celebration in Atlanta, Georgia. The dynamic duo made an impressive show by taking second place in the debate round robin that featured teams from across the country.

The JB Fuqua Novice National Celebration is a bi-annual event that celebrates the power of policy debate in the lives of urban students around the country. The event is funded entirely by a grant from the JB Fuqua Foundation and allows one novice team from each of the 13 urban debate leagues across the nation to visit Atlanta for a weekend of friendly competition and civil rights history. With visits to the Martin Luther King, Jr. gravesite and Ebenezer Baptist Church in addition to the 7-round debate challenge, the Fuqua Celebration gives students a vivid connection between the public speaking and advocacy skills they develop through debate and the life and legacy of one of the nation's best orators. Teams from Providence to Los Angeles, Seattle to St. Louis participated in the event.

The NYUDL is the flagship program of the IMPACT Coalition, with forty-five city high schools participating in this policy debate program, most of whom are Title I schools. The IMPACT (Improving Mentor Practices and Communication Techniques) Coalition is a nonprofit, career development organization that enhances the educational and career opportunities of urban students through training in debate and workplace dynamics. IMPACT makes competitive debate accessible to students and provides advocacy training to local community-based organizations.

Will Baker, Chief Executive Officer remarked that, the excellent record of new novice debaters is a tribute to those students and the training they received from the Coalition Institute and Training Initiative (CITI) run each August by the IMPACT Coalition". CITI is a commuter advocacy training program administered by experts in the field from Brown, Emory, Harvard, New York University and Yale that has become a central resource for urban students interested in debate.

5/03

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