



IMPACT Coalition

Great Kids, Great Stories

Debate Delivers Dreams

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Dear William,

With only one day left before our final NYUDL Awards ceremony, it's a great time to reflect on the year. We've made great progress on the social media front adding Twitter and enhancing our Facebook page (see Quick Links). In this issue, you'll read about landmark successes at the national championships, a breakthrough public debate on the environment at a community center three blocks from a brownfield, and some outstanding individual achievements including Maribel Vasquez winning a Fulbright Scholarship.



If you haven't had a chance to invest in these amazing young people as yet, stop now. Just for a minute. Visit our website (http://www.impactcoalition.org/aboutus/abt_infstu_dona.html). Your donation could make the difference between a child feeling triumphant and getting into college or being left home for the summer. If you were planning on it and just didn't get to it yet. I completely understand. You're under more stress than ever before. We all are. But if you believe in debate, supporting these kids is the best way to feel good when you head home tonight. They really need your help.

BACCALAUREATE PAIR PLACES 9TH AT NATIONALS



BSGE Debaters Sets Record for All-Girl NYUDL Team Performance She could barely contain her excitement as the VIP reception guests listened to her discuss debate. "I'm really excited about nationals and I love to debate. Hopefully, we'll do well" Erika Tanner and Shira Almaleh certainly exceeded expectations. The pair performed well enough to qualify for the elimination

rounds at the CFL National Championships.

With arguments based on their voices as young women and the important of debate as a form of social expression, the pair marched through the tournament with reckless abandon. They won their first elimination round before narrowly losing in the Sweet 16. The Baccalaureate School for Global Education has only had debate for three years but the program has grown into a powerhouse in NYC with several teams performing well at state and national events. Erika and Shira hope to attend debate institutes this summer to work on their skills as they prepare for even greater successes next year. Unfortunately, budget cuts have forced the elimination of sponsored summer scholarships by the IMPACT Coalition this year as reliable sources have fallen through. "What they achieved this year is incredible. They are not even seniors! It's hard to see these kids do so well and not be able to support their dreams to the fullest" said CEO Will Baker. Those two are tenacious so I hope they find a way.

Don't let these students dreams die

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS FACE OFF IN PUBLIC DEBATE



IS 216 AND THE BRONX SCHOOL FOR LAW, GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC DEBATE TO CELEBRATE BRONX WEEK SPONSORED BY BRONX NET TV. STUDENTS WILL DEBATE IDEAS PUT FORTH BY GENIUS AWARD WINNER If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then MacArthur Genius Award winner Marjora Carter, should feel very flattered. When BronxNet invited IMPACT to provide two schools to debate for Bronx Week, the pair quickly decided on an environmental topic and a focus on Ms. Carter's work.

Bronx Law coach Erik Fogel explained, "Marjora Carter who runs Sustainable South Bronx proposed an Electranet idea and our team has been using it as part of our affirmative arguments during the debate season." The public debate will last eight minutes and be held on Monday afternoon. CEO Will Baker offered, "I haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Carter but from what I know, I'm certain she'd be excited about middle schoolers from the South Bronx discussing these issues as scholars. We can't solve any issue until people discover their voices, especially the young people."

Read more about BronxNet

IMPACT ALUM WINS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP!



A KID FROM THE SOUTH BRONX EARNS A FULL RIDE TO COLLEGE AND A FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP ALL THROUGH THE POWER OF DEBATE. Few students start in the South Bronx and get a full scholarship to college. Even fewer, go on to apply for and receive a Fulbright scholarship. The incredible journey of Maribel Vasquez from the South Bronx to a Fulbright scholarship is a truly remarkable journey. Vasquez was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant to teach in Venezuela and serve as a cultural ambassador for the United States during the 09-10 year.

She attributes much of her success to debate and her time with the IMPACT Coalition. In her personal statement for the winning Fulbright application, Vasquez wrote, "I was recruited to join a policy debate team. Not the most popular activity to do, I stayed on the team simply because I was afraid of what would become of me if I didn't. With a pregnant best friend at 13 and gangs controlling many Bronx neighborhoods, I thought it was a matter of time until something would go wrong in my life. Through debate, I decided I wanted to go to college at fifteen, and once I wanted it, passion took over."

In speaking about the role of debate in her life, Vasquez remarked, "Debate proved to be the platform of my education. Not only did it build a confident woman in me, it put me in a setting that allowed me to meet remarkable people that have continued to shape my life for the better. I am indebted with the LGJ (my H.S.) debate team, with Sarah Ryan, the NYUDL and IMPACT. You, Will, sent Jennifer and I to debate camp in Vermont and always believed in us, taking a chance on a

number of us when for many it was easier to look the other way, so thank you." No Maribel, Thank you.

Learn more about Maribel

BROWNSVILLE CENTER DEBUTS DEBATES



Jamaal was very excited. After two months of preparation, students from the Brownsville Community Center took part in their first public debate as part of a pilot program developed by the IMPACT Coalition and Communities in Schools New York. As challenges grow for young people, the need to create more opportunities for them to learn to express themselves is vital.

The Brownsville initiative represents a chance to reach students that may not take communication courses or participate in those type of activities in schools but think of their local resource center as a safe space. The four debaters have been working with Willie Johnson, who debated in the NY Urban Debate League and now serves as an assistant coach with students in the Bronx. The students debated the issue of brownfields in their community and what responsibility the government should have. "The students were marvelous. We hope we can schedule a debate at Borough Hall so even more people can see them." said Joyce Freeling of CIS-NY. The Borough Hall debate will be scheduled in September. **Learn More about Community Debate**

AWARDS LUNCHEON SLATED FOR BROOKLYN



The end-of-year awards ceremony will be held at International HS at 883 Classon Avenue in Prospect Heights Brooklyn this Saturday. As a change of pace, the event was organized by the NYUDL Coaches Leadership Committee led by Erik Forgel. Parents and teachers are providing pot luck dishes as we celebrate another amazing season of debate.

The Coaches Leadership Committee was founded in March to provide a greater voice for coaches in league governance and to strengthen the partnership between coaches and IMPACT Coalition to address these difficult economic times. They meet monthly with diverse representation from across the league both middle school and high school teachers. Mark Wolov is the chair of the group who will hold its next meeting on June 22nd at New York University. **Don't Miss Events, Become a Facebook Fan Today**

FIRST-TIME WINNERS TAKE LD TITLES



TOTTENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WINS SUPERSTAR DIVISION AND GROVER CLEVELAND WINS RISING STAR DIVISION IN FINAL ROUND JUDGED BY ALL-STAR PANEL One-by-one the ballots were announced. "Judge Shelp votes negative. Judge Lipper votes...affirmative." It was tied 2-2 and the winner of the debate between Grover Cleveland HS and the School for Law, Government & Community Service hang in the balance. The final ballot was announced and, for the first time, Coach Michelle Abraskin's Grover Cleveland squad could raise the traveling trophy overhead. Tottenville followed suit defeating Thomas Edison by the same narrow 3-2 margin.

After two symposiums, a kickoff event and a practice tournament, teams from all five boroughs advanced to the elimination rounds Numbers were whittled down until we were down to our final four: The Championship Rounds for the Rising Stars group and the Superstar Group, respectively. The finals held at the Dicapo Opera Theater were judged by an all-star panel including Barbara Lopez, President of the English Speaking Union of NY, Professor Josh Margulies of New York University, Ronald Shelp, former AIG executive and author of *Fallen Giant*, Ken Lipper, Chairman of Lipper & Co and Carol Van Atten of the Charles Hayden Foundation. The students debated: Resolved that the US government bailouts of big business unjustly punish average Americans. The event was coordinated with the English Speaking Union of NY. **Shop at Igive and Earn Cash for IMPACT for free**

Here are five ways that you can make an enormous difference:

1. **Make a generous personal tax deductible contribution.** Encourage friends and family to support IMPACT's debaters in your honor. Visit our website at www.impactcoalition.org and click Donate.
2. **Connect IMPACT to those in your network who care about young people.** Host a house party to help spread the word about our work and connect us to new potential supporters.
3. **Aid us with your time and talent.** Find out if your company provides loaned executives, volunteer programs, in kind services, and other contributions.
4. **Join the Debate Champions Society** by calling our office or visiting us on the web
5. **Offset your stock losses by making a gift of appreciated securities to the IMPACT Coalition.**

If you're a parent, please make sure you're getting our Awards & Opportunities newsletters with thousands of dollars in college scholarships inside. IMPACT would like to help as many kids go as many places as possible but we need YOUR help. If you shop online for presents, try using Igvie or GoodShop which both have discounts for you at quality stores and earn IMPACT extra savings. If you have frequent flier miles you can donate for upcoming debate trips including summer scholarship travel, let me know ASAP.

Peace & Justice,



Will Baker
IMPACT Coalition

email: impactcoalition@cs.com

web: <http://www.impactcoalition.org>

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