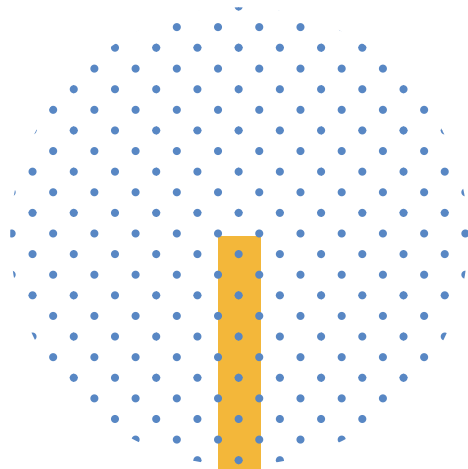




PORTLAND URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

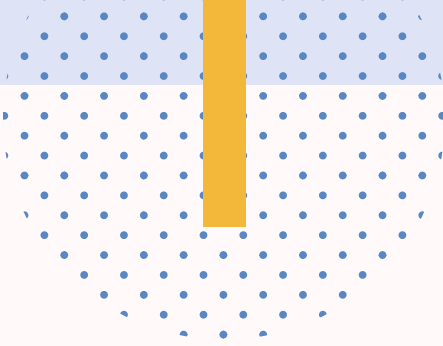
ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION

The Portland Urban Debate League's mission is to bridge the opportunity gap by expanding access to policy debate and competition for historically underserved high schools in the greater Portland area. We believe policy debate teaches the critical thinking, research, public presentation, and advocacy skills necessary for students to transform their academic lives.

For the past century, policy debate has offered a unique intellectual grounding for students, forging pathways to careers in the law, government, business, and public advocacy. However, the activity has largely disappeared from local high schools - in part due to the accessibility and financial barriers posed by the activity. PUDL's activities are intended to eliminate barriers to participation.

ACTIVITIES

PUDL hosts debate tournaments, trains teachers to become debate coaches, organizes and instructs students at summer and weekend workshops, and other events for debaters, and coordinates the efforts of educators and debate experts to create and promote best practices for the recruitment, retention, and training of a next generation of leaders.



CONTACT US

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OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Jake Weigler, Board Chair
Russell Hanes, Secretary
Dylan Amo, Treasurer
Amanda Pham-Haines
Brit McLean
Mallory Copeland

Executive Director

Matea Ivanovic



LETTER

July 2020 ends a year full of unexpected challenges and opportunities. I often thought about kairos– the Ancient Greek concept of timing, that success is about being in tune with the moment and our place within it. The word kairos has roots in weaving (creating openings) and archery (aiming and striking through an opening). By equipping students with the tools debate offers, we are creating an opening for a future generation of leaders to seize the moment and transform it through critical thinking, dialogue, and innovation. This year, we took the first step by launching our school-based programming.

Our first accomplishment is the launch of our school-based programming and tournaments that provided opportunities for students to debate reforms to US military aid policy. Nearly all of our students had never participated in debate of any kind. Just as we were finishing competitive season, the COVID-19 crisis forced us to adapt. We saw an opportunity to create virtual debate opportunities when all other local speech/debate tournaments had been cancelled. Our second accomplishment was to build partnerships that provide college/career exposure through our PUDL Summer Workshops with Lewis & Clark College.

We are beginning our second year of programming in the middle of a pandemic, but also with an opening to make debate even more relevant and engaging to a wider audience. This year's policy debate topic is federal criminal justice reform in the areas of policing, sentencing, and forensics. We are humbled by the importance of this work and the opportunity for students to innovate and test solutions to our current crisis as it unfolds in real time.

We invite you to work toward our mission with us to establish a legacy of leadership. There are so many ways to support us, by [donating](#), [volunteering](#), or visiting our [website](#) to learn more.

Sincerely,

Matea Ivanovic
Executive Director

WE SERVED OUR FIRST COHORT OF STUDENTS



98

students from

4

schools serving 40% or more students qualifying for free/reduced lunch

PUDL offered

- weekly debate classes
- 1 summer camp
- 5 tournaments
- 3 afterschool workshops

That adds up!

132

hours of competitive debate

42

hours of additional enrichment activities

WE BUILT DEBATE/COLLEGE PATHWAYS



Debate camp helps students start the competitive season with confidence, new perspectives, and more familiarity with collegiate debate possibilities. Hosted at Lewis & Clark College, the PUDL Summer Workshops immersed students in debate and college life. Students participated in lectures, hands-on activities, and practice debates. They also toured campus, made use of dining/classroom facilities, and participated in a panel on collegiate debate opportunities. The Workshops are at no cost to students and address common barriers such as costs for supplies, meals, and transportation.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
JOSEPH GANTT, NADIA STECK
AND THE LEWIS & CLARK FORENSICS TEAM**

WE ENGAGED VOLUNTEERS

27 volunteers supported our mission by judging tournaments and leading workshops and lectures

174 volunteer hours



THANK YOU TO OUR
VOLUNTEERS FOR
MAKING PUDL POSSIBLE

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Aaron Baker
Adam McKibben
Ameena Amdahl-Mason
Autumn Mercado
Bill Lynch

Brian Shipley
Brian Marshall
Brittany McLean
Chris Amo
Daniel Bates

David E. Filippi
Dixie Ann Hayes
Dylan Amo
Geoff Elzner
Gina Spanu

Greg Macpherson

Ian Baldwin
Ian Christy
Jackie Karmins
Jake Weigler

Jennifer Treichler
Jerard Weigler
Jody Folkendahl
Joseph A. Patrice
Justine Daniels

Karl Rohde
Katherine Frederick
Keith Eddins
Kristin Thiel
Leah Castella

Liani Reeves
Mark Jackson

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Mick Harris
Mitchell Dunn

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Patrick Donaldson
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Taylor Gibson
Thomas Haines

Tim Cunningham
Sarrah Yamin