

PORTLAND URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE



Annual Report 2022

PORTLAND URBAN
DEBATE LEAGUE



Mission

The mission of Portland Urban Debate League is to address opportunity gaps in education and empower students through competitive policy debate to become engaged learners and critical thinkers who are effective advocates for themselves and their communities.

Vision

Creating a thriving debate community, in which engaged students are partnered with trained coaches, the Portland Urban Debate League provides workshops and evidence to students, continuing education and curricular materials to coaches, and debate competitions with experienced judges throughout the school year. These resources are free or low-cost for member schools and available for purchase by non-member schools. We are committed to sharing expertise and ideas between programs, to mentoring and support, and to further discussions about debate and education. We also connect students to college and further education and leadership opportunities.

Contact Us

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Our Team

Executive Director

Mallory Copeland

Development Associate

Aftyn Garvin

Board of Directors

Jared Hager

Russell Hanes

Amanda Pham-Haines

Autumn Steele

Avneet Sidhu

Jake Weigler



Dear Supporters,

The last year has seen major growth for the Portland Urban Debate League. Our vision for the 2021-2022 school year was to support student recovery and we have achieved that. Our teams placed second and fifth place at the Urban Debate League national competition, a team qualified for the state championships, and two graduates were accepted to Ivy League schools.

But what was better than the trophies and achievements under our name was seeing the excitement of students as they finally got to debate in person this last February. Jokes and camaraderie among students from different schools and the joy of getting to prep together instead of calling each other on Zoom made our return to in person competition a heartwarming experience. These students really love debate. They care about their teammates, they care about the positions they're advocating for. You rarely see this kind of compassion among competitors. If you haven't gotten a chance to judge, you're missing out. These students will give you a renewed faith in a generation that has every reason in the world to be apathetic, but instead choose to be involved and dedicated to exploring new ideas and solving world problems.

I'm excited as we look ahead to the 2022-2023 school year. We are adding two new programs and seeing a significant increase in the students participating at our existing schools. Thank you for all of the support that makes this possible!

Sincerely,

Mallory Copeland
Executive Director



**PORTLAND URBAN
DEBATE LEAGUE**

Our Impact in 2022

103
students
from 5
schools

New Programs Added

- ✓ **Roosevelt High School (2021-2022)**
- ✓ **Parkrose High School (2022-2023)**
- ✓ **Franklin High School (2022-2023)**

162
rounds of
debate

New Programming

- ✓ **College and Career Connections program**

We Offered:

- ✓ **Weekly school and afterschool programming**
- ✓ **1 summer camp**
- ✓ **5 tournaments**

Growing College and Career Connections

Debate touches lives well after a student graduates. Debaters have gone on to important roles in our society, in part thanks to the skills and experience they received through debate. Debate teaches young people how to think through problems critically and seek out creative and innovative approaches. It prepares them to advocate for themselves and ideas that shape our world.

“*That was an experience that I can say without hesitation was the one activity that best prepared me for future success in law and in life.*”

– **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson**

To better support our students, in the 2022–2023 school year, we will be adding a program to connect them with better opportunities to attend college or pursue a chosen profession. In the Fall, we will hold a virtual meet up with college debate coaches from colleges and universities around the nation – many of which offer scholarships in debate. We will assist interested students to build on these introductions to pursue a college education.

As students returned to school, we brought them together with former debaters from across the community. Hosted by the Markowitz Herbold law firm, PUDL participants connected with people from diverse professions to learn more about how the skills and abilities gained through debate are applied in their work today. We look forward to building on this initial conversation to connect students to career opportunities in the community.



Looking The Part

For better or worse, students are sometimes judged at regional tournaments on whether they attend in professional attire. Although PUDL has zero dress requirements for our competitions, we want to ensure that this is not a barrier to success for our students who go on to compete at non-league tournaments. That is why we have for the past two years provided a clothing closet for PUDL students.

And now we are excited to announce... we have partnered with Dress for Success to provide a broader range of clothing options to our students.

Dress for Success has an extensive collection of clothing and allows students to fill out a personal style questionnaire to determine which clothes fit their personalities best. They even allow students to fill out the questionnaire online, a store attendant "shops" for the student, and the student can go pick up the clothing from Dress for Success. We are excited about the possibilities this provides students outside of debate - access to professional wear can make the difference in job interviews, career fairs, and other public speaking competitions.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
OREGON

Our New Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year

We are excited to grow our league in the coming year with the addition of Franklin and Parkrose High Schools.



We are expanding to Franklin High School in Portland Public Schools. Franklin High School is located in Southeast Portland and is the #20 most diverse public high school in Oregon, according to Niche ratings. Approximately 42% of its students identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color (BIPOC). We are excited to work with their mock trial coach, Brian Halberg, to bring policy debate back to campus.

After COVID-related disruptions delayed the start of debate at Parkrose, we are excited to get back on track in the 2022-2023 school year. In partnership with Portland Parks & Rec. and Multnomah County SUN Community Schools program, the program will be supported by new PUDL board member Jared Hager. Parkrose High School is located in East Portland and is the most diverse public high school in Oregon, according to Niche ratings. About 72% of its students are BIPOC.



Student Success in 2022

117

students enrolled in
League-supported debate courses

- **40% identified as BIPOC**
- **52%+ qualified for free/ reduced lunch**
- **51 students competed in our two League-hosted tournaments**

Reynolds High School qualifies for the OSAA State Championship

First time competing in the Urban Debate League National Championship



Two McDaniel High School teams competed in junior varsity of the Urban Debate League National Tournament, both teams' first time competing nationally. Isaac Peterson and Keegan Martin took 5th place and Keegan was awarded 5th best J.V. speaker. Zane Emerson and Lesly Valdivia-Marquez took 2nd place overall, losing to our friends in the Los Angeles Urban Debate League in a tough fought final round. Zane and Lesly also received speaker awards. Lesly was 10th place speaker and Zane was 2nd place speaker.

Program Graduates

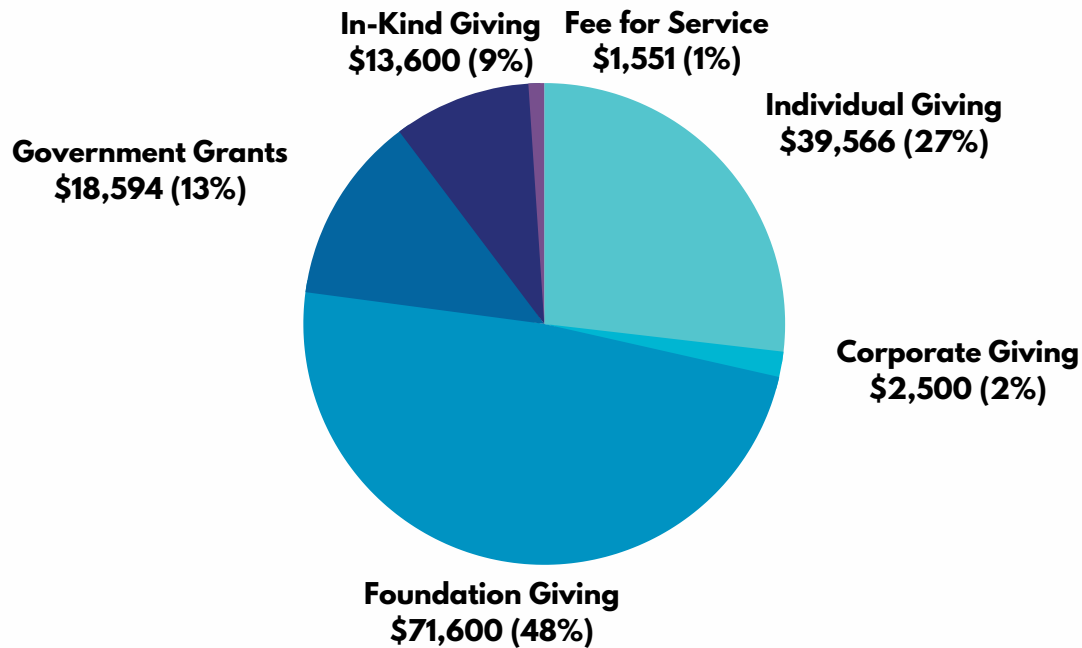
As our third year of program service in schools drew to a close, we bid adieu to a number of students that we've seen grow and excel over their debate careers. We are thankful that we had the privilege of working with these exceptional young people and are excited to see what comes next for them. Here are a few of the debaters who graduated this year.



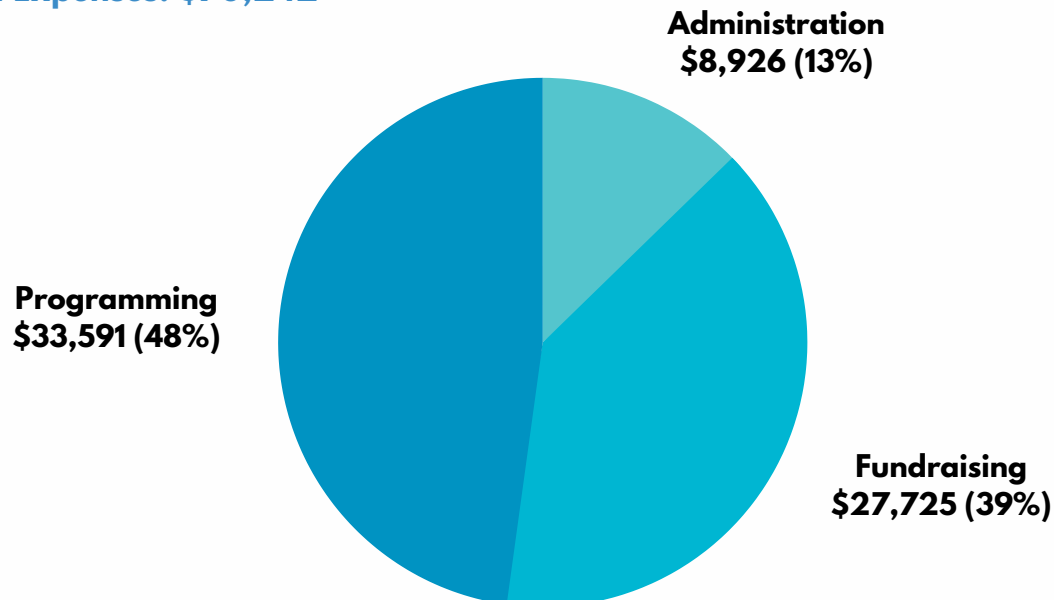
**Congratulations to Zane, Jesse,
Lesly & all our Graduates!**

Our Fiscal Year 2022 Finances

Total Raised: \$147,763



Total Expenses: \$70,242



Thank You to the Foundations and Institutions Supporting Our Work!



**Howard Wallis Irwin And Dorise
Carolyn Hinton Irwin Foundation**



**PORTLAND
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**



Thank You to our Supporters!



\$1001+

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Russell Hanes
Cindy Robert
Bradley Rosen
Autumn Steele
Jake & Heather Weigler
Jerry Weigler
Madeline Gochee and
Melaura Wittemyer

\$501-\$1000

Lisa Bates
Jon Eames
Keith Eddins
Rachel Erickson
Nicholas Greenfield
Jared Hagar
Christine Kline
Thomas McDermott
Brit McLean
Bonnie Richardson

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Chris Burke
Cody Hoesly
Jackie Kamins
Cameron Nilles
Jason Trombley

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