



MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



CIVIL DISCOURSE AND DIFFICULT DECISIONS RECAP

The MDUDL held its second annual Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions (CD3) event at the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. U.S. Courthouse.

Students from American Senior High, Miami Senior High, South Miami Senior High, and Hialeah-Miami Lakes took part in case simulations, jury deliberations, and group discussions.

The event, supported by the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, helped students build public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork skills while exploring careers in law and civic leadership.



www.miamiudl.org



[@miamiurbandebate](https://www.instagram.com/miamiurbandebate)

2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

Mission

The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) equips students from Title I schools across Miami-Dade County with essential academic and civic tools through competitive policy debate. Our mission is rooted in equity, advocacy, and opportunity—ensuring that every student has access to a platform to lead and be heard.

Season Snapshot

- 10 Participating Schools
- 149 Active Student Debaters
- 1,333 Debate Rounds Completed This Season
- 6 Policy Debate Tournaments Hosted
- \$84,466 Raised in Community and Corporate Support
- Scholarships Awarded to 6 Outstanding Debaters
- National Qualifiers Named (Middle & High School)
- 1 Coach Honored as Coach of the Year
- Civic Education Event Hosted at Federal Courthouse



Student Success Stories

- Roberto Carmona, Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High: Accepted into Harvard University, Class of 2029. Roberto's journey as an immigrant, going through the English as a Second Language (ESOL) program to Ivy League success showcases the transformational impact of debate.
- Daniel Nunez, Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy: Earned a full-ride scholarship to Duke University to study Political Science. His achievement exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and the lifelong value of policy debate.
- Nationals Bound Teams:
 - Middle School: Jazlyn Vazquezbello, Eli Levin, Jayden Sampedro, Brian Hing
 - High School: David Molina, Madelyn Mareira, Michael Porras, Alessandro De Palma

Scholarship Recipients

High School

- First Place: Leisker Valera (South Miami SHS) – \$500
- Second Place: Luka Chikvinidze (South Miami SHS) – \$250
- Third Place: Madelyn Mendoza (Miami SHS) – \$100

Middle School

- First Place: Tracy Leonard (Redland MS) – \$200
- Second Place: Kamila Rodriguez (Redland MS) – \$100
- Third Place: Yuliana Alvarez (Redland MS) – \$50



Honoring Excellence

Coach of the Year: Wayne Worthley, Redland Middle School

Recognized for exceptional dedication, mentorship, and leadership in building a standout middle school debate team.

MDUDL in the Media: Spotlight Moments

This year, MDUDL garnered widespread recognition across local and national platforms for its role in developing civic-minded youth and shaping future leaders:

- **Miami Lakes K-8 Center Celebrated for Tournament Wins:** *The Miami Laker* spotlighted Miami Lakes K-8 Center's trophy-winning season.
- **The Case for Debate in Law:** *Daily Business Review* featured board member Ben Mitchel's op-ed on how debate prepares students for the legal field.
- **CBS Miami: Youth Call for Policy-Driven Presidential Debates:** Students were interviewed on CBS News about their desire for issue-focused discourse during the 2024 election.
- **CBS Miami: Young Hispanic Voters Share Election Perspectives:** MDUDL students provided powerful insights on what matters most to young voters.
- **Newsweek Feature: From ESOL to the Ivy League:** *Newsweek's* "Mightier" series featured Roberto Carmona's inspiring journey to Harvard.



Announcements

League Ambassador Application

The League Ambassadors Program is a leadership opportunity within the MDUDL. We are looking for dedicated ambassadors to help shape the League's future. Ambassadors will:

- Support league operations by hosting virtual practices
- Mentoring middle school teams
- Planning events
- You must be a high school student who has competed for two full seasons.

This role offers a chance to take on a key leadership position within the league while gaining valuable experience and mentorship.

Apply Here >



2025 Summer Debate Institute

Location:
The University of Miami

Dates:
August 4-6, 2025

Time:
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

- Offerings:
 - Middle School Workshops
 - High School Workshops
 - Coaches Professional Development Sessions
 - Breakfast and Lunch
- Registration coming soon.



2025–2026 SY CALENDAR

4-6
AUG

**MONDAY-
WEDNESDAY**

Location:

University of Miami

Arrival: 7:30 AM

20
SEP

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

11
OCT

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

15
NOV

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

13
DEC

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

11
JAN

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

7
FEB

SATURDAY

Location:

TBA

Arrival: 7:30 AM

